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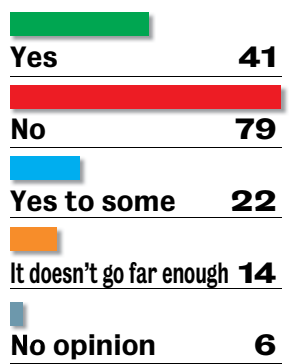
MONDAY APRIL 12, 2010

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POLL RESULTS

Do you agree with the austerity measures being proposed by the Fitial administration?



Sunday, April 11, 2010

INSIDE



Beef and Wine

The 3rd Annual Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous takes place at the Hyatt Regency Garden.

LOCAL...Page 13



Plane Crash

The crash of an aging Russian airliner ravages the top levels of Poland's military, political and church elite.

WORLD...Page 17



Tiger Parody

Few ads in the history of advertising have been riper for parody than Nike's new commercial.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Another 10-cent hike in Shell gas prices. **PAGE 4**
Huesman also resigns from the OAG. **PAGE 5**

Admin starts process to cut govt workforce

The administration is pushing for the austerity bill to avert payless paydays but current conditions tell us that there's likelihood that it will hit the bank account.

—acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has already started the process of trimming the government's civil service workforce, while contract employees will receive notices of work hour cuts as early as this week, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Civil service, contract employees covered

See **PROCESS** on **Page 4**



2 Japanese lawmakers get Tinian support

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's mission accomplished for two of Japan's Social Democratic Party members who visited the CNMI during the weekend, after hearing directly from Tinian officials and residents of their support of a proposal to relocate up to 4,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Tinian.

on hosting US troops from Okinawa

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz made it clear, however, that the final decision to relocate thousands of U.S. troops to Tinian rests with the U.S. government.

Dela Cruz also told the visiting lawmakers to ensure that the relocation costs will be addressed.

SDP lawmaker Kantoku Teruya,

See **JAPANESE** on **Page 4**

From left, visiting Japanese policy/legislative affairs staffer Hideki Morihara, Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Speaker Zenshin Takamine, Social Democratic Party lawmaker Kantoku Teruya, who is chairman of the Okinawa Base Affairs Team, and CNMI House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), during a meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Gapan on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'I was born in Camp Susupe during WWII'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the two Japanese lawmakers who visited the CNMI during the weekend for talks on U.S. troop relocation was born at a concentration camp called "Camp Susupe" during World War II.

See **CAMP** on **Page 4**

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Local

CPA board members waive honoraria to save cost

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Common-

wealth Ports Authority's board of directors have come to a "gentlemen's agreement" that nobody would collect their

honoraria, with the money going instead to the operational needs of the agency.

Board chair Joe Lifofoi dis-

closed this to *Saipan Tribune* Friday, saying that all members have been donating their per diem allowances to the agency

since early this year.

He said this action was taken after members saw the serious financial challenges faced by both airports and seaports on three islands.

CPA board members are paid a \$30 per diem if a meeting lasts less than four hours. It goes up to \$60 for whole-day board and committee meetings.

Lifofoi, after Friday's special meeting, expressed gratitude to all seven board members for agreeing to this arrangement, despite the absence of formal board adoption.

Besides Lifofoi, the other CPA board members are vice chair Thomas Villagomez, Benigno Sablan, Manuel Villagomez, Barrie Toves, Fermin Sakisat, and Margarita Prater.

CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto confirmed the non-collection of per diem allowances, saying this will help the agency's financial footing.

In addition to waiving their per diem allowance, Lifofoi disclosed that members have also agreed to limit off-island travel for board members and CPA officials.

Last week, Lifofoi said, only CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero was allowed to participate in the annual Federal Aviation Administration conference now being conducted in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The board chairman said that as much as possible, they want to limit the board's travel expenses to the airfare of Rota and Tinian board members when they attend meetings on Saipan.

Unless FAA sponsors the off-island travel, the board will restrict CPA representation in other events.

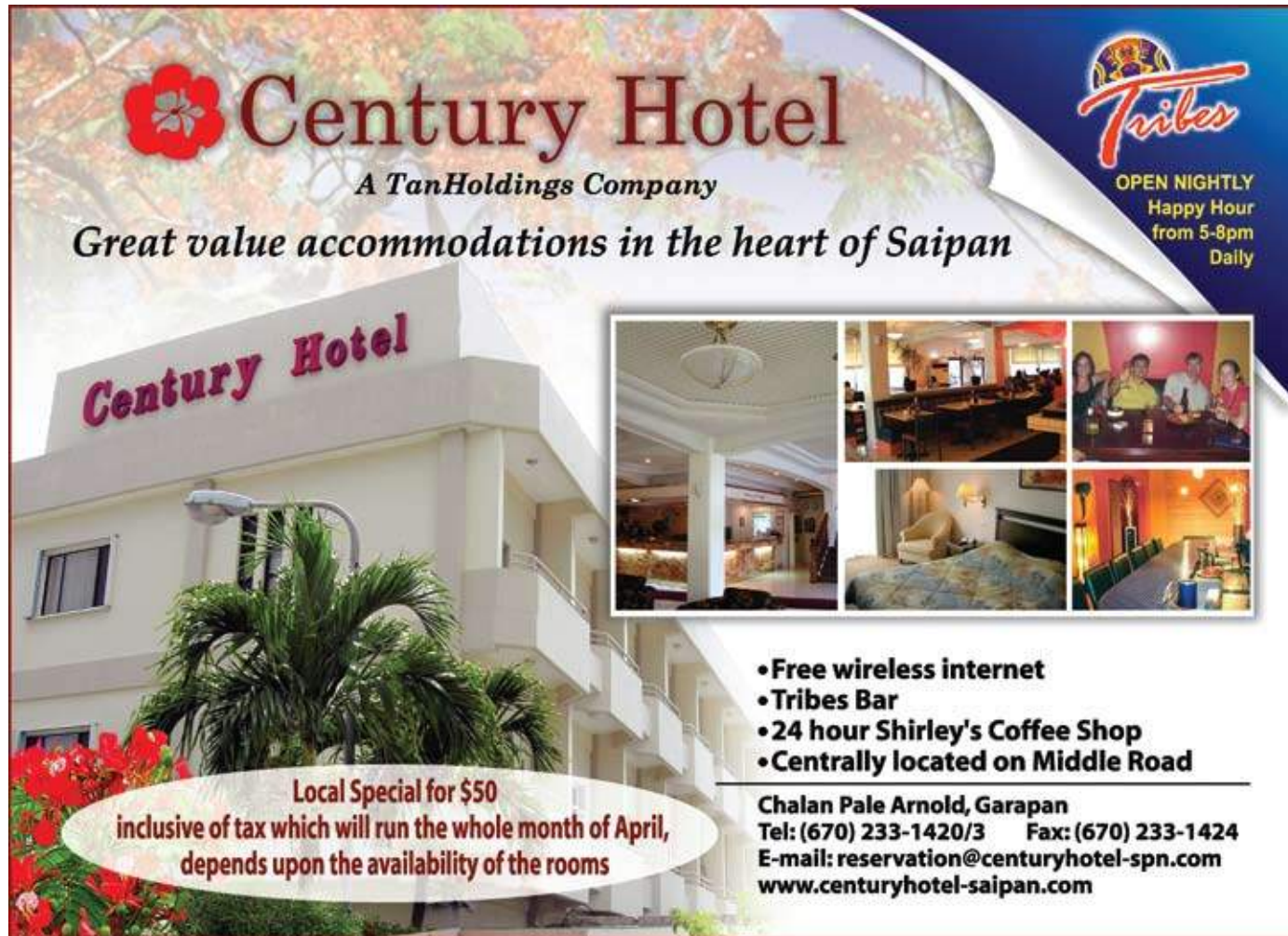
Saipan Tribune learned that CPA approved early this year a \$21,700 travel allowance for agency executives who will need to fly to important off-island events and conferences in Fiscal Year 2010.

The amount, Lifofoi said, will not be used entirely for off-island trips but can be reprogrammed anytime for other important agency obligations.

"All travel requests will go through the board first," he said.

Early this year, the Fitial administration issued a travel ban on all government agencies and instrumentalities as a result of declining government revenues and collections.

Last year, audits conducted on CPA uncovered some irregularities in past board members' travel expenditures as a result of weak internal controls. Excessive payments to a number of consultants were also uncovered in previous administrations, affecting the overall financial performance of the agency.



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Fitial zeroes out 12 posts for NMC, OKs just 104 employees

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial zeroed out 12 positions for the Northern Marianas College, approving just 104 full-time employees for the next fiscal year.

NMC had submitted to the governor a request for funding for 116 full-time positions, called FTEs. Of this number, 97 are currently filled and 19 are vacant.

In his budget request submitted to the Legislature on April 1, however, Fitial asked for funding for just 104 employees. This means he only approved filling seven of the 19 vacant posts.

Early this year, the college had a total workforce of 182: 76 faculty members and 106 staffers. These include local and federally-funded employees.

Besides the drop in the FTE request, NMC also anticipates a significant drop in its yearly allocation after the governor asked the Legislature for just \$4.7 million for the college: \$3.8 million for personnel and operational costs and \$913,965 for the vocational education program pursuant to Public Law 5-32.

In the last budget law passed, NMC was budgeted for \$4.6 million. However, Fitial recently implemented an across-the-board 7.25 percent budget cut, resulting in the college getting just \$4.2 million.

The Board of Regents earlier adopted a budget proposal of \$9.9 million for FY 2011, which includes the establishment of

the U.S. Apprenticeship Program. Of the proposed amount, roughly \$5.7 million is recommended for personnel and all other expenditures while \$1.2 million will fund the college's vocational education program. The college also projects to collect \$3.1 million from tuition and other fees in FY 2011.



Fitial

NMC has two funding sources for operations: allocation from the Legislature and the tuition and other fees collected from students.

The local appropriation covers the salary of personnel and other college expenditures such as utilities, while tuition covers payment for "overloads" of faculty, work studies, and scholarship grants.

Under Fitial's proposed \$3.8 million budget for NMC personnel and operations next fiscal year, about \$140,000 will be allocated for utility consumption.

The college projects a shortfall in this amount as utility costs are expected to reach about \$200,000 for the entire year.

The governor's proposal of over \$913,000 for vocational educational programs is also a significant decrease from what is currently being received, \$1.2 million.

Henry Hofschneider, chief financial and administrative officer, said the college will face a

great challenge in its operation as a result of decreased appropriation.

He pointed out, though, that the college and the board are serious in operating within the budget ceiling and avoiding unnecessary expenditures to survive this fiscal year.

The board earlier said that the proposed budget is in compliance with the accreditation standard to link planning and program review to budget resources and integrates the institutional priorities established by the NMC planning, program review, and outcomes assessment committee.

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Another 10-cent hike in Shell gas prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In less than a month after its previous 10-cent price hike, Shell Marianas again increased the pump prices of its gasoline and diesel fuel by 10 cents a gallon at midnight yesterday.

Shell's self-serve regular unleaded gasoline is now \$3.879, from \$3.779 a gallon as a result of the 10-cent increase. Self-serve premium or V Power unleaded gasoline now costs \$4.199 a gallon at Shell stations.

Self-serve prices are the ones that motorists see on price displays at gasoline service stations.

Full-serve regular unleaded gasoline is now \$4.009, from \$3.909 a gallon. Full-serve premium or V Power unleaded gasoline is now \$4.399 a gallon at Shell.

PROCESS

From Page 1

These two administrative processes are separate from the House austerity bill, which the Senate has opened to public hearings.

According to the administration, the reduction in force is being done so that the government will be able to live within the revised projected revenue of \$137 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

The reduction in force among civil service employees will be initiated 60 days after the Office of Personnel Management received Fitial's letter informing it of his intention.

On April 1, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial already notified acting Personnel director Isidro Seman of the administration's "intent to implement a reduction in force," pursuant to the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

Contract employees, meanwhile, will see a reduction in their work hours 30 days from receipt of a notice of intent to reduce work hours, from their directors or hiring authority.

In an interview Friday, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said notices of intent to reduce work hours are now being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General and OPM.

The new work hours will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, until further notice. This will reduce work hours by 10 every pay period, from 80 to 70, the same work hour cut proposed by H.B. 17-45. The current government work hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Inos said the notices to contract employees will be issued as early as this week.

Fitial, in his memo, said the reduction in force is "through a combination of reduction in work hours, furloughs and terminations of employment, as necessary."

"A review of staffing and operations is being initiated to determine the best means of effectively continuing government services within the constraints of diminished revenues," Fitial told Seman in a two-page memorandum, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

The governor, who is off island since last week, said these actions will be initiated 60 days from the date of Seman's receipt of the April 1 letter, or by June 2010.

"Any newly mandated statutory reduction-in-force actions may be initiated

Diesel at Shell service stations now costs \$4.049 a gallon.

The last time that Shell increased its prices by 10 cents was on March 14.

Yesterday's price hike marked the third time round of gasoline price increases on Saipan this year.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen a total of at least \$1.15 a gallon increase in gas prices.

As of yesterday afternoon, Mobil service stations surveyed said they have not received a notice yet of price changes. But because Shell and Mobil have always mirrored each other's price changes, motorists can expect Mobil prices to also go up shortly.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notice of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

ed earlier, as authorized by law," Fitial said, referring to Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-45, which seeks an across-the-board reduction in government work hours, from 80 to 70 per pay period.

H.B. 17-45 passed the House on March 25. The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) will hold public hearings on the bill before making any recommendation to the full Senate. The public hearings will end this week.

The austerity bill eyes government cost reduction of some \$4.5 million but its supporters, including the Fitial administration, said for every passing day that the bill is not passed and signed into law, the lesser will the expected savings become.

The Public School System wants to be exempted from the austerity bill, citing the loss of over \$47 million, including an "immediate" loss of \$16 million, if the measure is implemented in its current form. The Fitial administration said even states like Hawaii have included their school systems in work hours cut but still managed to retain their federal grants.

Inos said the administration looks forward to an austerity bill, just like H.B. 17-45.

He said the clock is ticking for the passage of such austerity bill, but he said the administration respects the process, referring to the public hearings being conducted by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Inos reiterated that the reason the administration is pushing for the austerity bill is to avert payless paydays, among other things.

"But current conditions tell us that there's likelihood that it will hit the bank account," he said.

Inos said the government has to cut down on costs, including payroll.

"And the way to do that would be to reduce hours, establish austerity through legislation or do it through the administrative process, and the administrative process will call for reduction in force. Reduction in force comes in different forms... We are looking at all options right now but the process has commenced," he said.

The original estimated resource for FY 2010 was \$150.5 million, with \$148,083,551 to be spent for government operations. Due to a projected decline in revenue, Fitial adjusted this amount to \$137.350 million representing a 7.25 percent reduction that he said "must be absorbed by the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

CNMI artist lends talent to Guam

CNMI registered artist Marconi Calindas has lent his talent to neighboring island of Guam, with Wear-A-Marconi Guam Collection hitting at least four stores in the U.S. territory.

Calindas' Wear-A-Marconi Saipan clothing line features colorful art designs inspired by the beauty of the islands.

DFS Galleria Saipan began carrying the line in 2008. DFS Galleria Guam noted the popularity of the shirts and decided to carry the product with Guam-inspired designs.

Calindas has at least five designs that were inspired by the scenic spots and

history of the neighboring island, including his version of the Two Lovers' Point, the Latte Stone Park, Ababang, Treasure Diving, and the Legend of the Sirena.

"We are deeply honored to have provided exclusive designs for Saipan and Guam's premier shopping malls. Our shirts are known to be more than a shirt but also an art, inspired by the large canvas of the beautiful islands of the Marianas," said Calindas.

Admaran International Guam licensee Rhaj Sharma is elated with the Wear-A-Marconi clothing line.

"Wear-A-Marconi Guam is an exciting collection of Guam-design t-shirts

that express the colors of the island through bold and vibrant artwork. Wear-A-Marconi is 'wearable art,' inspired by original paintings by well known artist Marconi Calindas," Sharma said.

He said each design on every t-shirt speaks a thousand words about Guam's culture, beauty, and history. He said Calindas' art on the shirts brings a new flavor to consumers who are looking to wear a unique touch of Guam and for visitors who want to give a memorable gift to someone back home.

"Wear-A-Marconi will truly be appreciated of any age and taste...it's a high quality product, with much creativity, and simply...screams Guam," Sharma said. (PR)

CAMP

From Page 1

Kantoku Teruya, a Social Democratic Party member of the Japanese Legislature, was born in Camp Susupe on Saipan on July 24, 1945.

The U.S. military opened the gates of Camp Susupe in July 1946 but Teruya said he and his family moved back to Japan in January 1946, when he was still 6 months old.

Teruya, through Hideki Morihara who served as translator and interpreter, said every time he comes to the CNMI, he always feels that this is his "dear old home."

He is the only one among the 722 current members of the Japanese Diet who was born on Saipan.

Now 65, Teruya is serving his fourth term in the Japanese Diet—one term at the Upper House and three terms at the Lower House.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

who chairs the Japanese Diet Affairs Council and SDP's Okinawa Base Affairs Team, said the party will convey this message to the Japanese government, hoping that it will consider this option in meetings with the U.S. government on the relocation of troops from Okinawa to Guam.

Teruya, through Hideki Morihara who served as translator and interpreter, said they are thankful for the support of Tinian, as well as the CNMI government.

"The mayor of Tinian indicated that the island can accommodate 4,000 military individuals plus about 4,000 military family members. However, I understand that their position is to accept the plan if the U.S. and Japan governments reach an agreement," Teruya told *Saipan Tribune* shortly before departing Saipan for Japan yesterday afternoon.

Two-thirds of the land on Tinian is leased to the U.S. Department of Defense. Tinian is one of the main islands in the CNMI.

Japan has set a May 31, 2010, deadline for reaching a conclusion on the thorny issue of where to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Ginowan, in the Okinawa Prefecture.

The Futenma relocation is part of a broader bilateral agreement on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan and is linked to the transfer of some 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam by 2014.

Accompanying Teruya were Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Speaker Zenshin Takamine, also of SDP, along

He was a lawyer before entering the political arena in 1988 when he was elected for the first of two terms in Parliament in the prefecture of Okinawa. In 1995, he won a seat in the Japanese Diet's Upper House. Since then, he lost only one re-election.

Teruya, who chairs the Japanese Diet Affairs Council and the Social Democratic Party's Okinawa Base Affairs Team, said his parents came to Tinian from Okinawa in the 1930s.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that Teruya was born on Tinian, but Teruya said the mayor might have thought so because his parents stayed on Tinian for years before the war. His parents worked at a cotton farm on Tinian.

Teruya's parents moved to Saipan for his father to work at the Nanyo Kohatsu sugar plantation.

When war broke out, the civilian

with Satoshi Nozaki, deputy secretary general, policy making board of the SDP, and Hideki Morihara, secretary for policy/legislative affairs of lawmaker Ryoichi Hattori.

SDP is one of three parties that are part of the ruling coalition in Japan, along with the Democratic Party and the People's New Party. The three parties are now in the process of discussing a proposal to replace the 2006 Japan-U.S. agreement on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan and related Japan Self-Defense forces.

The four-member Japan team arrived on Saipan on Saturday morning and met with House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan). They flew to Tinian in the afternoon.

Tenorio said the CNMI government supports the relocation of troops to Tinian, but such relocation will have to be approved by the U.S. government.

On Sunday morning, the Japanese delegation, along with Tenorio, met with Tinian officials and residents led by Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation led by chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), members of the Tinian Municipal Council, and heads of departments and agencies on the island.

No Japanese mayor was included in the delegation, contrary to the Tinian mayor's statement last week.

The main purpose of their visit to the CNMI was to express the views of SDP on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan and the U.S. military base in Okinawa, as well as concerns on the 2006 U.S.-Japan agreement on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan.

The Japanese government has been exploring an alternative to the 2006 Japan-U.S. accord, under which the Futenma base will be transferred by

population was brought to concentration camps and one of them was Camp Susupe where Teruya's parents were brought.

He said the first time he went back to Saipan after his family returned to Okinawa was in 1980 when he joined a Japanese memorial service for the victims of the war.

His visit during the weekend was his fourth time to the CNMI since leaving Saipan in 1946.

"The people from Okinawa are very familiar with the Mariana Islands. The first time I came back here with my oldest sister, I felt that this is my dear old home. ...Every time I come here, I always feel I like this place very much," he said.

Toward the end of the interview, Teruya said his personal affinity to the CNMI has nothing to do with his key role in considering Tinian as relocation site for U.S. troops from the Futenma base in Okinawa.

2014 to a coastal area of Camp Schwab on land that would be reclaimed. This is because of the growing call from the people of Okinawa to reduce U.S. military presence in their area. But the U.S. wants to stick to the 2006 agreement.

When asked whether they were able to accomplish what they came to the CNMI for, Teruya said, "Yes, indeed."

Teruya said there are two major points he is going to raise to the Japanese government: "That the people on Tinian are expressing their willingness to host Marines on the island," and "they are seeking financial assistance to accomplish the relocation costs."

"We have to stress the point that the idea to relocate the Marine Corps to Guam and Tinian is not included in the Japanese government plan yet. SDP will convey the Tinian support to the relocation of the Marine Corps in Okinawa, to the Japanese government," Teruya said.

Dela Cruz said the Tinian Municipal Council will be introducing and passing a resolution conveying their support of the relocation. He said Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will also be introducing a joint Senate-House resolution for the same purpose. The House speaker said he was also planning on introducing a House resolution, but he said he would give way to Hofschneider's measure.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview, reiterated that the CNMI will defer to the U.S. government any decision on the relocation of U.S. troops to Tinian or any other island of the CNMI.

The CNMI government has raised socio-economic impact concerns with the draft environmental impact statement related to the military buildup in Guam and on Tinian.

Huesman also resigns from the OAG

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another assistant attorney general has resigned from the Office of the Attorney General.

Braddock J. Huesman of the OAG's Civil Division submitted his resignation letter to Attorney General Edward Buckingham on Thursday. His last day in the OAG will be April 30, 2010.



Huesman

Saipan Tribune contacted Buckingham on Friday after

learning about Huesman's resignation, but the AG refused to comment and instead forwarded Huesman's resignation letter.

In his letter, Huesman said he is leaving the OAG to establish the law firm Fisher Huesman LLC.

He said he knows the timing of his resignation is unfortunate, in light of the recent "collection of unpleasant newspapers articles" regarding staffing levels in the OAG's Criminal Division.

"I wish to assure you that my

resignation is based strictly on the availability of office space and health insurance, nothing more. It is unfortunate timing, but it cannot be helped," said Huesman in his letter.

He said he is proud to have served with the litigators, prosecutors, investigators, and the administrative staff and support staff in the OAG.

"It is because of their hard work and professionalism that the office is a difficult place to leave. I have formed some wonderful professional and personal relationships and will always fondly remember

my time serving the people of the Commonwealth," Huesman said.

He said he respects and admires Buckingham's leadership at the OAG. "I have enjoyed working for you and I am saddened to leave. Public service

is never easy and these are extraordinary times for the Commonwealth and its people," Huesman said.

The OAG's Criminal Division is currently understaffed as many prosecutors have resigned for various reasons beginning

January 2010.

Buckingham earlier said a new prosecutor is joining the OAG's Criminal Division within the next several weeks. He said it is his goal to have at least six prosecutors, in addition to the chief prosecutor.

Court to provide Robinson with legal materials

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since the Department of Corrections has no law library, the federal court will provide legal materials to Kent Sebastian Robinson, so he could prepare and defend himself on charges of producing a forged \$200 million Treasury bond.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman said that since Robinson insists on representing himself, the court will give the legal materials to the U.S. Marshals for Robinson so he could prepare for his trial on May 17.

This came about after Robinson voiced concern about his access to legal materials.

Wiseman said the Sixth Amendment provides prisoners a fundamental right to meaningful access to the courts. "However, to have meaningful access to the courts does not necessarily require the right to a law library," the judge said.

In the CNMI, Wiseman said, Corrections has no law library, but two sufficiently stocked law libraries—at the Superior Court and at the federal courthouse—are in close vicinity to the prison.

"Bearing these in mind, the court will do what it can to provide the DOC with adequate legal materials to assist defendant in the preparation of his defense," Wiseman said.

Wiseman also reminded Robinson that he had been given a stand-by counsel. "Defendant can contact the attorney if he requires legal assistance, including acquiring particular, specific, legal materials," Wiseman said.

The judge had relieved attor-

ney Timothy Bellas as the court-appointed counsel for Robinson after both Bellas and Robinson asked for Bellas' relief.

The judge said a new stand-by attorney will be appointed to Robinson.

Wiseman earlier warned Robinson that he would be held in contempt of court if he continues to be combative in his behavior.

At his arraignment, the 43-year-old Robinson refused to plead one way or the other. He also stated that he did not waive any right to counsel and that he has already fired Bellas. Robinson reiterated his position that

he wishes to represent himself.

The indictment charged Robinson with fraudulent uttering of a private security, making and uttering of a fictitious obligation, and mail fraud.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 19, 2008, Robinson made a counterfeited and forged document—a Secured Funding and Offset Bond—purportedly registered with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The "Offset Bond" which declared a value of \$200 million, was paid to the order of Oceania Insurance Corp., a company registered and doing business in the CNMI.

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D	Pansit Canton	Yaki-udon	Vegetable Pansit	Sukiyaki	Japanese Cold Noodle
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36 ballots cast on first day of RP absentee voting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-six voters on Saipan cast their ballots at the Philippine Consulate General on Saturday, the first day of the 2010 overseas absentee voting for registered Filipino workers in the CNMI.

"The conduct of elections is turning out well. We have a good turnout. Many picked up their ballots and many also filled up and submitted their ballots," Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after voting for the day closed at 4pm.

Romeo Garchitorena, the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group chairman, and members Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta and Lauren Arce inspected and segregated the 36 ballots cast in front of Macaraig.

Jun Concillado, Pilipino Contract Workers Association president, and Ronnie Doca, PILCOWA and United Workers Movement chairman, served as witnesses.

When *Saipan Tribune* left, the segregation of votes was still ongoing. At least two ballots were placed inside a separate box for questionable ballots because the signatures of the voters appear to be different and will still be verified.

There are 7,169 registered



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, extreme right, observes as members of the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group and witnesses prepare for the segregation of the 36 ballots turned in by registered Filipino voters in the CNMI for the 2010 overseas absentee voting on Saturday. The Philippine Consulate General will accept accomplished ballots until May 10 at 8pm.

Filipino voters in the CNMI.

Concillado said the voting process was well organized and easy to understand.

Printed on the ballot are the names of 10 candidates for presidents, 8 bets for vice president, 61 candidates for senators, and 187 party lists representatives.

The Philippine Consulate General opened its doors for the start of voting on Saturday at 8am.

Macaraig said four voters submitted their accomplished ballots

in the first hour of voting.

Rosemarie G. Ramirez of Susupe and Allan C. Hernandez of Finasisu, both of Saipan, were the first two voters who submitted sealed envelopes containing their respective ballots.

Some voters took home the sealed envelopes. Voters are allowed until May 10 at 8pm to submit their ballots to the Philippine Consulate at the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Voters, particularly those on

Tinian and Rota, have the options to send their ballots by mail to the Philippine Consulate General at P.O. Box 500731 Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 CNMI, USA.

Macaraig said they have had problems sending the ballots to some voters on Rota and Tinian because they may have changed their postal addresses.

Macaraig said absentee voters who cannot personally pick up their ballots may call the consulate at 234-1848 to make

arrangements on the method of claiming their ballots.

Macaraig said the counting of votes will be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza on May 10 at 8pm.

He said the results of the overseas absentee voting in the CNMI will be brought by the

chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers to the Philippine Senate and the Commission on Election in Manila.

Macaraig urged all registered overseas Filipino voters to exercise their right to vote and to vote wisely for the candidates "that will lead us in the coming years."

US govt seeks to dismiss 'ice' case vs ex-DFW staff

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has moved to dismiss the criminal case it filed last year against a former employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife who allegedly sold methamphetamine or "ice."

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto filed on Friday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI a motion to dismiss the criminal case against Raymond Roberto.

Benedetto said he has conferred with Roberto's counsel, and he is not opposed to the request.

No explanation was indicated in the request for dismissal.

The complaint, filed on Oct. 6, 2009, charged Roberto with one count of possession of a controlled substance (.20 grams of "ice") with intent to distribute.

On Jan. 12, Roberto's counsel, Joaquin DLG Torres, asked the court to allow his client to leave the CNMI for the Philippines from Jan. 18 to Jan. 26 for business purposes.

The U.S. Attorney's Office did not object to the motion, according to Torres. Then chief judge Alex Munson granted Roberto's request.

Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Brian Todd stated in his report that on Dec. 2, 2008, a confidential source of the Department of Public Safety disclosed that Roberto is a source of "ice" on Saipan.

Todd said DEA agents conducted a buy-bust operation on Dec. 29, 2008, during which the confidential source was able to purchase \$150 worth of "ice" from Roberto at his house in As Lito.

Roberto has pleaded not guilty.

ZONING OFFICE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

The Zoning Office will be holding workshops to promote educational awareness of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law, as well as to seek comments on how the law is working. These workshops are in line with the Zoning Board's goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature as it prepares for the law's review and update. The public consultation and information campaign will continue over the next month in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Please note the following changes made to the dates, times, and target group for the coming days:

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
2:00 to 3:00pm
Government Agencies

All workshops will be held at the Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff@zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ZONING BOARD TO HOST VILLAGE MEETINGS

The Zoning Board and Office will hold a round of village meetings to seek comments about how the current zoning law is working, and will update and revise the current zoning law with the goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature. The public consultation and information campaign over the next two months will continue in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Meeting dates and locations which have been confirmed are:

Thursday, April 15, 2010 6:00 PM Dandan Village
@ Dandan Elementary School Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 6:00 PM San Roque Village
@ GTC Elementary School Cafeteria

The Board encourages anyone with suggestions that might improve the language of the law, or changes to the zone boundaries to attend. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the meeting. Written suggestions may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, April 30, 2010 or they may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff@zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

Demapan is chosen as law school's Class of '10 speaker

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan will be the commencement speaker for Santa Clara University School of Law's Class of 2010.

Demapan will speak at SCU Law's commencement ceremony on May 22 at 9:30am in the Mission Gardens.

A former Superior Court judge and current chief justice, Demapan has presided over and written rulings on key issues for the CNMI, including cases of government bribery and abuse of power. He also recently oversaw an innovative movement to push home-foreclosure cases into mediation, rather than the courts, to help resolve one of the CNMI's top social crises.

Demapan, who received his J.D. from Santa Clara University Law School in 1985, took his current post

in 1999, just 11 years after the CNMI Supreme Court was established as the highest body in the islands' post-World War II judicial system. He is the third jurist to hold this position.

As the young judiciary's top official, Demapan is the chairman of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission, which is charged with codifying rules for appellate cases, bar admissions, and judicial conduct, among other regulations.

Demapan was previously a director of the U.S. Conference of Chief Justices, which comprises chief justices of the highest courts in the states and territories. The conference discusses national issues and lobbies to maintain the independence of judicia-

ries and ensure uniformity in the operation of the courts.

"All of us at Santa Clara University Law School are very proud of the leadership and judicial service shown by our distinguished graduate, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan," says Santa Clara Law Dean Donald J. Polden. "His longstanding professional service to the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands and his many professional achievements provide an excellent example of a Santa Clara Law graduate—a lawyer of competence, conscience and compassion. We are pleased that he will join us in congratulating the graduating class of 2010 and their families and friends at this year's law commencement."



Demapan

Confab to unveil \$20B opportunities in Guam buildup

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The *Hita I Marianas* ("We Are The Marianas") Conference will be held in San Diego, California from May 25-26, 2010, bringing together government, business and industry leaders to provide a comprehensive overview of the \$20 billion military and civilian development program planned for the Marianas region, home to the U.S. territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. One of the largest U.S. Department of Defense construction projects in 50 years, the program is poised to transform the Marianas into one of the fastest growing economies in America.

Targeting businesses looking to ex-

plore new opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region, the conference will provide detailed information relating to the U.S. military buildup in the Marianas. With the impending closure of military bases in Okinawa and other strategic locations in Japan and the surrounding area, the Mariana Islands are gearing up to support the relocation of over 19,000 military personnel and their families, with a projected population increase of as much as 80,000 within the next decade. The program is drawing the attention of businesses throughout the U.S. who are keen to learn more about this opportunity, particularly in light of

a slumping national economy.

Bringing together key business people and top federal, military and government officials, including CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, this groundbreaking conference will address topics including:

ON THE NET

<http://www.marianasbuildup.com>

The strategic importance of the Marianas buildup and what it means for the future of America's military presence throughout Asia;

The size, nature and timing for both military and civilian construction, service and infrastructure development contracts that will be awarded over the next five years;

The potential for housing, and commercial real estate development as well as the financial incentives available for businesses looking to establish long term investments in the Marianas;

The various business opportunities available in different fields, including: Architecture and Construction, Real Estate, Federal Contracting, Tourism and Gaming, Financial services, Transportation and Shipping, Agriculture, and Retail and Wholesale services;

The appropriateness of the Marianas as a platform for business development and expansion in Asia, including the tax and legal advantages to companies operating in the region.

The selection of San Diego as the hosting city is extremely relevant, with the city's three largest industries being

After law school, Demapan returned to Saipan and began his legal career as general counsel for J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. After a few years in private practice, representing major business and local clients, Demapan became an associate judge for the Commonwealth Superior Court in 1992, and later an associate justice in the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of CNMI covers the 14 islands in the territory with a combined population of about 80,000 people. The Court consists of a panel of three permanent members and hears dozens of cases a year, on a quarterly basis, in all areas of the law.

Demapan and his wife Frances Tenorio Demapan have five children.

Source: <http://law.scu.edu/news/pr>



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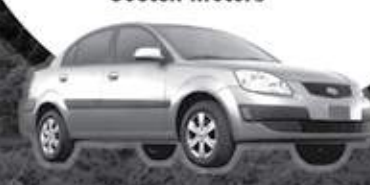
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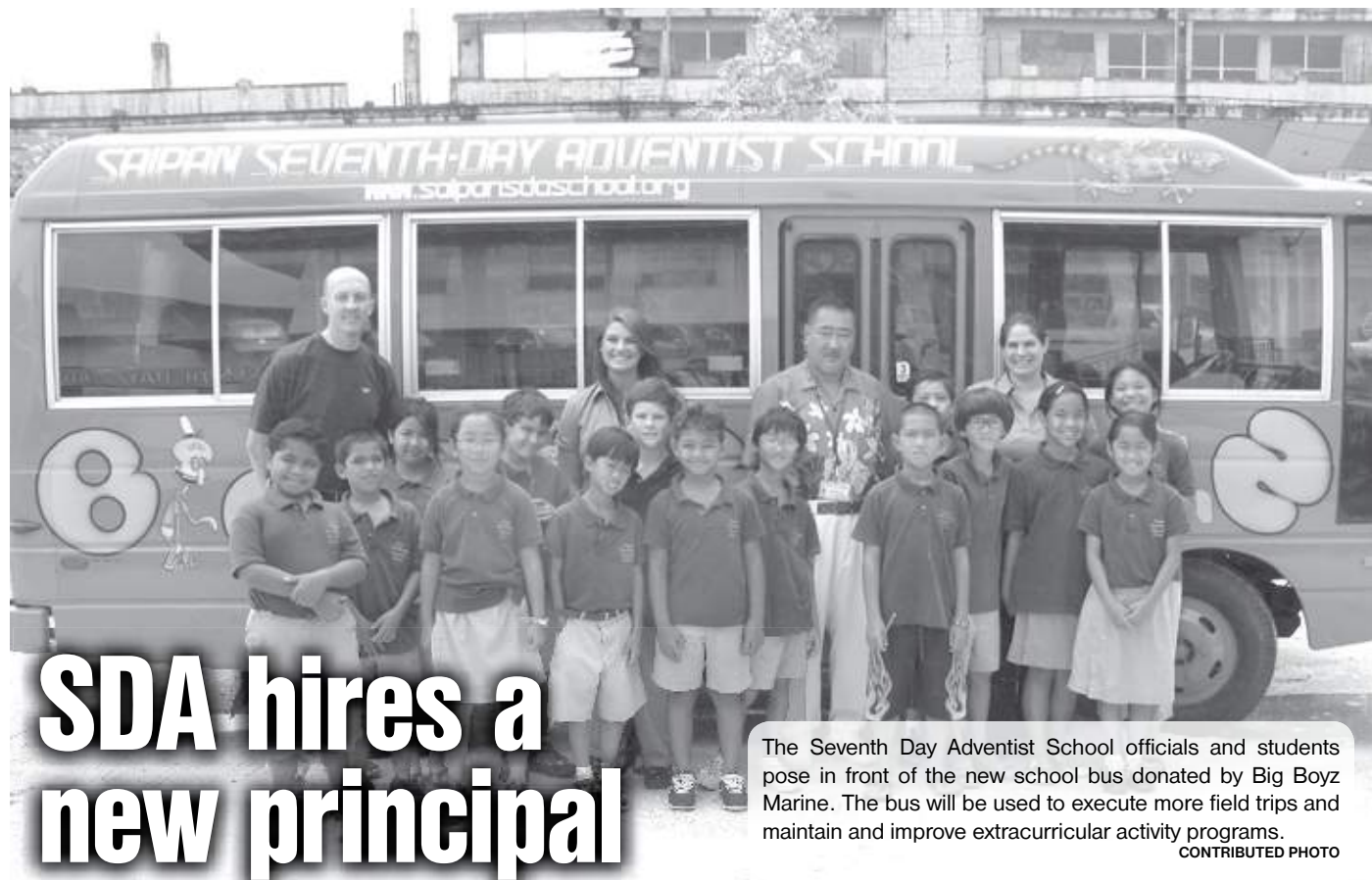
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SDA hires a new principal

The Seventh Day Adventist School officials and students pose in front of the new school bus donated by Big Boyz Marine. The bus will be used to execute more field trips and maintain and improve extracurricular activity programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **WALTER J. SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Seventh Day Adventist School has hired a new principal for school year 2010-2011.

Interim principal Amy Foote said that Michael Berglund will take over the position when he arrives on Saipan on July 1.

Berglund has a total of 20 years experience as a teacher with 15 of those years serving as a history teacher and director of a large social studies department in the Wisconsin Public School System.

Berglund holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology with an emphasis in Business

from Andrews University and a master's degree in History from Eastern Michigan University.

It was while studying history when Berglund said he found a new desire to become a teacher.

"While studying history I began to realize my interest in teaching and learning, and with this newfound desire to become a teacher, I enrolled and earned a professional certificate of teaching from the University Of Michigan. After nearly 10 years of teaching, I continued my studies by earning a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration through the University of Wisconsin-Superior," said Berglund.

Aside from the hiring of Berglund, SDA also announced plans of making improvements in the structure of their building and adding three more professional teachers to their full time staff.

SDA has also recently received a new school bus donated by Big Boyz Marine which will be used to execute more field trips and maintain and improve its extracurricular activity programs.

According to Berglund, SDA also has plans to increase the number of scholarships available to students who are interested in attending their school and who demonstrate a financial need. Berglund also ensures that after school activities and child-care will continue to be a mainstay of the SDA.

"SDA will maintain a regular 8am-3pm school day and intends to continue serving the parents and students by offering free before and after school care," said Berglund.

The supervised before school drop-off schedule begins at 7:10am and resumes after school Monday-Friday until 5:30pm.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 12, 1999

CIP veto likely to stand

An override on Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's recent line-item veto on the CIP bill is not likely to go through despite widespread dissatisfaction from the Legislature over the drastic move, according to lawmakers. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said the leadership in the upper house has not come up with a position against the veto of some capital improvement projects under the nearly \$23 million appropriation measure passed by legislators. Senators will await a new proposal from the Tenorio administration identifying the next batch of CIP-funded infrastructure plan of the government on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

BPL cautions gov't on trade-zone perks

Opposed to a government plan to offer tax breaks and other incentives to investors of the proposed free trade zone in the CNMI, the Board of Public Lands has cautioned the legislature on the move in view of its additional costs to the public sector and unfair treatment of other businesses. Since they are all aiming to make profits, companies within the free trade zone should not be accorded a preferential treatment when it comes to lease payment of public lands, according to BPL Chairman Tomas B. Aldan. "It is rather discriminatory to isolate them solely because they are licensed under the free trade zone," he said in a letter to Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

April 12, 2000

Sablan's term in CUC ends

Businessman Benjamin A. Sablan ended his term yesterday as board member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and it is unlikely that he will opt to have it renewed or extended. The board director, who represented Saipan in CUC's policy-making body, has reportedly made a commitment to his wife and family that he would devote his time to their business once his four-year term expires. Mr. Sablan was appointed in January 1996 by then-Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio to replace Antonio Cabrera whom he later named as finance secretary during his administration.

House to revive discussion on school voucher

The House of Representatives is likely to revive discussion on the school voucher or choice program after the initial proposal more than four years ago drew strong opposition from the Board of Education. Rep. Brigida Ichihara, chair of the Education Committee, said yesterday she will meet with educators and representatives of the community to feel the public pulse on instituting the program as part of school reforms in the CNMI. On a visit to Washington D.C., the lawmaker, along with the rest of the nine House members, met yesterday with think-tankers from the Institute for Justice on education reforms.

April 12, 2001

Gov't unfazed by investors' pullout

The CNMI government is not even a bit fazed by the reported pullout of at least two groups of Korean investors who would have established \$25 million worth of shooting galleries in the Northern Marianas. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said potential earnings from the infusion of additional capital through the construction and operation of shooting resorts in the CNMI are not part of the projected revenues for the financial year 2002. Mr. Tenorio appeared to have not been bothered a bit by declarations made by Korean investors of their plans to move instead to Guam for their shooting resorts due to the restrictive investment policies in the Commonwealth.

Jet fuel tax earnings rise

Extensive efforts to increase passenger traffic in the Northern Marianas showed positive results in terms of revenues collected from jet fuel taxes during the past four months. Quoting reports provided by the Department of Finance, the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed revenues from jet fuel tax registered a modest growth to \$108,000 from October 2000 to January 2001, compared to last fiscal year's the same period of \$106,000. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios assured that efforts will be beefed up to improve the Commonwealth's relationship with signatory airline companies, in addition to the Airline Incentive Program that is currently implemented by the ports authority. The same recommendation was also voiced out by Air Service Committee Chair Robert H. Jones.

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/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 9:30 am at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza in Chalan Pale Arnold.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

- Tinian Rock Quarry Operation-CRM Reference No. TMS-2010-X-031
- Marine Salvage Operation-CRM Reference No. SMS-2009-X-082
 - Permit application
 - Discussion of permit application by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - Permit Status determination

III. Other Matters

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ Rita C. Chong - Dela Cruz
Director

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/s/ Melvin L. O. Faisao,
Acting Secretary, DCCA

BEAUTIFY CNMI AWARDS**Nomination deadline is Friday**

The deadline to submit nominations for the annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards is this Friday, April 16.

The awards are given out to recognize the individuals or groups who have been environmental leaders during the past 12 months. There are two award categories, the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion.

The Environmental Steward award recognizes a person or group that leads the community in activities that help protect our environment in a variety of ways. This individual or group has demonstrated the need to take pride in our islands and to take care of the place we all call home. They serve as an example for others, especially the next generation, to follow.

The Environmental Champion award recognizes a person or group that exemplifies the Beautify CNMI spirit. Those qualities include volunteerism, cooperation, innovation, creativity and the ability to infect others with the Beauty Virus. The Environmental Champion is a role model for others to follow. They bring environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. They make things happen and effect change.

The 2007 Environmental Champion winners were Bree Reynolds, Kathy Yuknavage, and Carl Brachear. The winners of the 2007 Environmen-

SCC's scholarship info, application materials are now available online

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund information and application materials are now available at the "downloads" section of the Chamber's Web site, www.saipanchamber.com, as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

Each year, the Chamber awards thousands of dollars in scholarships

to deserving local high school students to assist in defraying the ever-increasing cost of postsecondary education. Funds for the scholarship are raised through the silent auction at the Chamber's annual installation dinner, through the annual Corporate Challenge, and through other events during the year.

This year, the Chamber has increased the individual scholarship awards from \$1,500 to \$2,000 each. The Chamber anticipates awarding five such scholarships. Both public and private high school seniors are eligible, as are non-U.S. citizens.

Application requirements include:

- Enrollment as a senior in a

tal Steward award were Adam Sablan and Friends of the Mariana Islands.

The 2008 Environmental Champion winners were Nava Khorram, Marites Castillo, Katie Busenkell and Rose Callier of PAWS, Mike Tripp of Marianas Dive, and Aqua Resort Club. The winners of the 2008 Environmental Steward award were Friends of the Marianas Islands, Marianas Dive, Paseo de Marianas Promoters and Max Aguon and the Pantalon Boys.

The 2009 Environmental Champion winners were Tan Holdings, Laurie Peterka, and Ken Kramer. The winners of the 2009 Environmental Steward award were the Friends of the Monument.

To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition. You can make as many nominations as you like, but individuals and groups can only be nominated for one award category. Nominations must include the award category the nominee is being considered for, a well written argument detailing the reasons why this nominee should be considered, and contact information for the nominee and for the person making the nomination.

Send nominations to Laurie Peterka at beautifycnmi@gmail.com or mail them to PMB 112 BOX 10,000; Saipan, MP 96950 or call 483-7499 for more information. (BCNMI)

secondary school on Saipan.

- Proof of acceptance at a college, university, or vocational school of your choice.

- An official transcript demonstrating a grade point average of 3.5 or higher at the time of application.

- Completion of either the SAT or ACT college entrance exams and submission of your scores.

- Submission of letters of recommendation from two people; one should be from a business employer or an educator.

- A personal interview with the Chamber's Education Committee.

- Submission of an essay of no more than 1,000 words on the topic: "How I will Use My Education to Improve the CNMI."

Applications are due at the Chamber office by 5pm, Friday, April 30, 2010, and scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 2, 2010. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at info@saipanchamber.com or 233-7150. (SCC)

Upcoming book focuses on NMI history, experience in self-rule

Retired chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz announced yesterday that he has submitted for publication a book manuscript he has written about the Northern Mariana Islands. The manuscript has recently been edited by his publisher in Hawaii. It is now being prepared for layout and design and, thereafter, it will be submitted to the printer for publication. He expects the book to be printed and ready for market distribution by the end of July 2010.

Dela Cruz's book, *From Colonization to Self-Government--The Northern Marianas Experience*, provides a personal

perspective on the unique experiences of the natives of the Northern Marianas during the roughly four centuries of colonization by Spain, Germany and Japan. The book also discusses the 30-year experience of the islanders as wards of the United Nations after World War II, with the United States as the administering authority.

The book touches on several of the important legal and political issues that arose during the trusteeship administration. It discusses the political status aspirations of the people of the Northern Marianas in the 1960s, the political status talks that took

place in the early 1970s, and the eventual decision of the islanders to join the American political family.

Dela Cruz said his book is not intended to be an exhaustive study of the history and experience of the people of the Northern Marianas. His goal in writing the book is to give readers, particularly the post-trusteeship generation of islanders and those interested in the Northern Mariana Islands and its people, a good picture of what life was like in the islands during the period of colonization and, later, during the trusteeship era. One of

the most interesting parts of the book is its discussion of the 30-year experience of the Northern Marianas as a "self-governing commonwealth" of the United States. The book addresses some of the important legal, political and economic issues that arose after commonwealth self-government began in 1978.

Dela Cruz hopes that his book will provide readers with a good understanding of the experience the islanders had during the years of colonization and the years after they began commonwealth self-government. It is also his hope that the residents of the CNMI (and CNMI leaders in particular) will look back on that experience with a view towards improving their ability to govern themselves and improving the quality of life in the CNMI. (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Use of intelligence data will improve airline security

After the failed attempt to bomb a Northwest Airlines plane on Christmas Day, the Obama administration imposed a temporary policy requiring extra screening of every passenger bound for the United States from 14 countries.

A new policy by the Transportation Security Administration looks like a real improvement. Officials say it should boost security and reduce the number of people tagged for secondary screening.

Currently, airlines receive a list of people on the no-fly list who are barred from air travel, and another list of people tagged for additional screening. Under the new policy, a third list will be generated, made up of people who are potential risks based on specific intelligence information. The airlines won't receive the underlying intelligence data, only the names.

Officials say the new policy should reduce the number of people subjected to extra screening, but the number will still be above what it was before Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's botched attempt to blow up the Northwest plane.

Stewart Baker, a former Homeland Security official in the Bush administration, called the change a "big deal." He said it will allow officials to use a wide range of intelligence data about risky travelers rather than rely solely on "static lists."

Abdulmutallab represented a major lapse for airline security. He was allowed to board the plane even though he was on a terror-watch list, bought his ticket with cash and had only a small carry-on bag. What's more, his father alerted U.S. authorities that his son had become radicalized.

No system is fail-safe, nor will the best system be effective if run by officials who aren't alert. But the changes put forward by the TSA add an extra layer, and that may significantly improve security.

© 2010, Kansas City Star



The Kilili factor

For he is an ebullient fellow! Not only jolly ho-ho-ho, though that, too, he with the easily mistaken buck teeth. The Congressman was just too happy to see the people who trekked to his Town Hall meeting at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, calling each one by their first name, and warmly greeting the very few he was obviously meeting for the first time.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is a hardworking man, feverishly so that he may easily be mistaken for an obsessive workaholic with output touched by disciplined competence, packaged in an élan of quiet and understated self-confidence. Our first and current non-voting CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress is, however, being challenged to hand over the reins of his office to a former Washington rep and governor, or a former House floor leader, or a former lieutenant governor, all high caliber politicians representing the established political parties in the CNMI.

More from the perspective of a social commentator than from a political strategist, and definitely not from the polished craft of a PR aficionado, the following cursory comments come from infrequent but nevertheless close quarter observations. It is in no way intended to be an objective or authorized profile; it is more in the nature of a monologue inviting similar reflections, rather than a tract to persuade or guide a voter's choice in the upcoming election. (We've been told to refrain from endorsing a candidate since it seems to have been a kiss-of-death to previous candidates!)

In my landscape, Kilili practices the *politics of presence*. When he shows up, you know his full attention and essence is there. He is at home shooting the breeze under the flame trees with constituents as he is in hobnobbing with the coat-and-tie crowd at the Willard Hotel across the White House; briskly totting reams of paper from policy wonks to committee meetings in the republican House of Congress as he is prompt in showing up at scheduled local democratic events.

That presence walks the path of a comprehensive and inclusive context. Without losing touch of the lessons of the past, he would rather focus on clarity, commitment and concerted action to move into the future; not so much on "how did we get here," as it is "where are we now and where do we need to go from here?"

The first question usually elicits a blame game and fault-throwing response, sadly practiced when reviewing the actions of predecessors. Kilili seems more focused on the latter, inviting as many personal views and analytical perspectives without making any rash judgment to polarize variations, attaining understanding, and then engaging practical proposals assessed on viability and effectiveness. Head on, he faces perspectives that needs broadening, like a lament aired about the amount of remittances sent out by contract workers in the CNMI, inquiring also of those sent out by owners.

The Friar Tuck joviality is merge with the manners of a seasoned svelte statesman who talks his walk, and walks his talk—be forcefully at variance with others without being disagreeable!

Politics of gratitude is the one that was more than a light touch. Sending a 'thank you' note to all members of the House for allowing

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



federal taxes to remain in the CNMI, and appropriating additional Uncle Sam's funds to support programs of local government, is a gracious acknowledgment of debt. Conversely, signs in his office to remind himself and his congressional staff who they work for abounds. These traits affirm something inherent in the culture and crosses party lines.

There is the unmistakable *politics of justice*. The moral force behind his insistence to refrain from treating contract workers as if they are just units of convenience who can be discarded after efficient use harkens to the prophetic voice of old and the progressive view of the new. We do not quarrel on that one, though some still do.

More importantly is the *politics of participation*. This is particularly pertinent to the congressman's impassioned hitching his wagon to the broad mandate to educate citizens. The Public School System is obviously where he would be most helpful, and his comments about how the unfunded mandates of the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) legislation, which was a refunding of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), had in fact left the CNMI and other jurisdictions behind, is a welcomed concern from a budget supporting legislator!

We could do wonders with the town hall meeting format with a little tweaking of the methodology so that the productivity end is on the participants, and the information sharing end is on the congressman or his staff. To be sure, the goal at transparency through the Web site and an openness in public is a plus, but more engaging is the challenge to constituents to roll up their physical and intellectual sleeves, and join the fray in authentic democratic participation beyond just voting. That includes democrats with the big "D" with whom he is mostly, though independently, aligned.

Noting the gains garnered by private schools, the quality of charter schools locally organized by like-minded and clearly delineated curriculum in other locations, and even the individualized attention of home schooling, broadens the inclusiveness of the education arena. Reviving the interactive network of programs between career and trade institutes that impart skills, arts and letters to capture imagination and innate aptitude, and academics and the humanities toward professional degrees in higher learning, for our island high school curricula, is a conversation that requires our participation.

So, would someone say again why we would want to take Kilili's Cannon House jacket away?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sakrifisiu finenina ginen hita

Guaha priniponen lai para uma-ayau ‘nos kuantos miyon pesus para apas dibin gobietnon iya Marianas. Gaige gi halum man-mapasalista na dibi siha para programan man-ritirau yan man-presisu na obligasion. Buente mauleg na intension este na diniseha, lau kau propiu na dibi kontra futurun famaguonta?

Baihu saunau gi tatten este na prinipone soluke todutres ramas gobietnu mafanue’ i publiku na siha finenina para u sakrifisia siha gi bandan gastun fondun operasion. Lau debi uma-asegura na i sigiente siha man-machogue sin ditension.

1). Ma-utut i dos guma lehisatura papa’ gi un’ kuetpo ya malimite i membro gi dies, uno kada uno para Luta yan Tinian, i ochu para Saipan.

2). U maribaha modun benefisiun para u fan ritirau papa gi benti siñku pot sientu (25 percent) gi totat sueddoña yan sitibisioña.

3). U makondakta “desk audit” gi todut depattamentu yan ahen-sia para umadetetmina kau todut i kuarto mit na empleau pot nessesidat. Todut i man-presisu na posision u fan ma-utot ensegidas.

4). Todut setbisiun gobietnu ni kumonpitetensia yan bisnis u fan mahuchom ensegidas.

5). U masede CUC yan CHC na umabasiha guatu gi bisnis pot para ta funas ennu na gastu gi pottanmonedan chafleg na kahan iya Marianas.

6.) Todut offisinan mayot u tachu gastaña gi hafa ha rikohe kada sakan.

7.) U mana para todut karera gi hiyuñg iya Marianas. Na setbe i internet yan telefon para este na gastu.

8). Debi i PSS de u tutuhon umatan i difirensia gi presente na sisteman edukasion yan ayu i mafananaan’ cyber classroom. Machochogue este pagu Japon, Hong, Halimaña yan otro siha nasion.

9). Todut kareta (fuerake tumobit polisia) u fan ma-utot unu kada depattamentu sin ditension.

10). Todut holidays fuera ke Bietnes Santu, Christmas, New Year’s yan Thanksgiving u mana fan para. Gi bandan bisnis, dos masede hau na holiday gi sakan. Los dimas, halum ya un’ fa-chochu maseha para apas suedomu.

Yangin ta petsige este na chalan, ti presisu na u guaha priniponen dibin hinerasion sa’ sobla de siña mañgalamten hit. Tat presisu na ta pega miyon pot miyon na dibi gi apaga’ famaguonta. Atan maisa halom gimamiyu sa gaige kables na ineppe pot nessesidat fondu para usun todut tres ramas gobietnu. Reponsablidad

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



miyu (sa’ dañkulu na promesa in’ deklar publikamente) i para in keni i publiku guatu gi libianu yan yanu na plaset.

Gi kada siñkuenta años, hinegs enteru elmundu didog na chinatsaga. Este na pinadese establisau taimanu sinañgan i Santa Biblia.

Yangin ti ta attende, pues tinatitiye este ‘nos kuantos klasen pesti. ‘Nai taya sinseru na inadahe, mas adit i pesti gi tanu.

Mas maibe na biahe i tiempom somnag. Lamegai chetnut HIV/AIDS yan un’ sagu ni hihot ti amtiyun. Mas lokue ma-umenta i numeron linau deste Mexico, Indonesia, Japon yan sanlichen na Amerika (South America).

Mientras tantos, todut kinalamten mas man-adelantau na nasion siha gi bandan ekonomia mampos ti aseguraa. Este na sinisede siha didog ha aminanasa i mas man-dikiki na lugat tat komu Marianas.

Gaige este gi biblia ya i Sainata ya monana. Dispues, hanae’ si Moses para guiya u esgaihon i man-namase’ huyuñg ginen Ihptu (Egypt). Ha chogue matagoña si Moses lau ti mattu guatu gi Tanu Paraisu (Promise Land).

I puntu: Este na pinadesi siklu gi kase kada siñkuenta años. Ileghu na man-gaige hit pagu gi karera hulu ginen este na chinatsaga. Hu a’atan lokue kau guaha tahguen Moses ni para u fanue’ hit ni Tanu Paisu. Trabiha taigie gi entalo’ta este na Moses.

Pot Ositan: Gi fina lisayu, man-a’adiñgan grupon man-amku pot grasia siha guihe na semana. Un’ membron Knight of Columbus ilegña mamaisengue gi lugat malasa nu i kables na setbsiu dimas de umanae komisiun (commission).

Ilegña i kompaireña na para u sañgane i O’Bispo na umatulaika sablena lamlam yan unu na sablen mueye na goma ni mafahan ginen un’ dikiki’ na tenda. Fanaan pumara i prohimu sa’ esta pagu tatnai fumila gi inetnon niha gi man-ma’gas na misa siha.

of \$160,000? Is it because Lorraine Cabrera is your niece and is involved too?

You speak of fear of Dr. Beno. Let’s be clear, it is not the fear of Dr. Beno that we are worried about, it is the fear of NMC losing its accreditation. Sir, stop trying to hide the truth and stand up and do what is right. Don’t be another puppet of “you know who.”

You speak of Agnes McPhetres in your recent letter and how there were no issues during her presidency. If that is true, then I may just take the opportunity to ask interim president Lorraine Cabrera for all accreditation reports, WASC visiting team reports and letters from Ms. McPhetres’ time to date and make a comparison. NMC was non-compliant with program review all the way back to 1990—this has been announced publicly. As stated by the student signs, “Stop the Politricks.”

Lastly, do you know what really transpired in the April 5, 2010 board meeting or “hearing”? This same meeting now has been postponed until a day before the visiting team steps foot on NMC campus. It was also stated that management will be selecting a group of representatives from various governance councils to meet with the visiting team. Correct me if I’m wrong, but I thought it was the other way around—it is the visiting team that determines who they need to meet. I would like Larry Lee to be the first interviewed. Lee appeared to violate accreditation policy when he went to the newspapers with comments made in the October 2009 midterm report and visit which are supposed to be confidential. Thank you, Mr. Lee—and you are still a business instructor at NMC and still the Faculty Senate president? Where is the NMC faculty in all of this? Where is the administration? Oops, I forgot, you’re being protected by Janet King.

Your attacks on Dr. Beno are disrespectful and uncalled for. But Mr. Torres, we know where this is coming from—what else can we expect from you and your cohorts? Rep. Torres, let me thank you for making it quite easy for the accrediting commission to make a decision. I hope you’re proud of yourself, along with anyone that took part in this childish and nonsense fiasco. The agenda of a few may just have destroyed the future of our children who had hopes of furthering their education here at home.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

How Washington is spending your taxes in 2010

By BRIAN RIEDL
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Taxpayers filing their 1040s are likely wondering just where all their hard-earned tax dollars are going, anyway.

Washington will spend \$31,406 per household in 2010—the highest level in American history (adjusted for inflation). It will collect \$18,276 per household in taxes. The remaining \$13,130 represents this year’s staggering budget deficit per household, which, along with all prior government debt, will be dumped in the laps of our children.

Government spending has increased by \$5,000 per household since 2008, and nearly \$10,000 per household over the past decade. Yet there is no free lunch: If spending is not reined in, then eventually taxes must also rise by \$10,000 per household.

Washington will spend this \$31,406 per household as follows:

■ Social Security/Medicare: \$9,949. The 15.3 percent payroll tax, split evenly between the employer and employee, covers most of these costs. This system can remain sustainable only if there are enough workers to support all retirees, which is why it risks collapsing under the weight of 77 million retiring baby boomers. Unless these programs are reformed, paying all promised benefits would eventually require doubling all income tax rates.

■ Defense: \$6,071. The defense budget covers everything from military paychecks to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to the research, development and acquisition of new technologies and equipment. Lawmakers drastically reduced military spending after the collapse of communism in the early 1990s. The 9/11 attacks reversed this trend, and the inflation-adjusted \$2,472 per household increase since 2000 has returned military spending closer to its historical levels (but still lower than during previous wars).

■ Anti-poverty programs: \$5,466. Nearly half of this spending subsidizes state Medicaid programs that provide health services to poor families. Other low-income spending includes: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps, housing subsidies, child-care subsidies, Supplemental Security Income and low-income tax credits. President George W. Bush increased anti-poverty spending to record levels, and it has grown an additional 32 percent since the end of 2008 under President Barack Obama.

■ Unemployment benefits: \$1,640. Unemployment costs have surged by 411 percent during the recession.

Interest on the federal debt: \$1,585. The federal government is \$13 trillion in debt. It owes \$9 trillion to public bond owners, and the rest to other federal agencies (mostly to repay the Social Security trust fund, which lawmakers raided annually before the program went into deficit in 2010). Record-low interest rates have recently held down these costs. However, the national debt is set to double by 2020, which will combine with higher interest rates to raise annual interest costs to nearly \$6,000 per household.

■ Veterans’ benefits: \$1,052. The federal government provides income and health benefits to war veterans. Spending is up 83 percent since 2000.

■ Federal employee retirement benefits: \$1,018. This spending funds the retirement and disability benefits of federal employees, including the military.

■ Education: \$914. Education spending is primarily a state and local function; 9 percent of the total comes from Washington. The federal education budget has leaped 125 percent since 2000. Most federal dollars are spent on low-income school districts, special education and college student financial aid.

■ Highways/mass transit: \$613. Most highway and mass-transit spending is financed by the 18.4 cent per-gallon federal gas tax. Washington subtracts an administrative cost and sends this money back to the states with numerous strings attached.

■ Health research/regulation: \$550. This spending is up 50 percent since 2001, and much of this growth is concentrated in the National Institute of Health. The category also includes the Food and Drug Administration and dozens of grant programs for health providers.

■ Mortgage Credit: \$470. While most of the bank bailouts occurred last year, the bailouts of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the rest of the housing market continue.

The programs listed above cover \$29,328 per household. The remaining \$2,078 is allocated to all other federal programs, including justice, international affairs, natural resources, the environment, regional development, farm subsidies, social services, space exploration, air transportation and energy.

Taxpayers—and the next generation that will be paying nearly half of the bill—must decide for themselves if they’re getting their money’s worth.

Brian Riedl is the Grover M. Hermann fellow in federal budgetary affairs at The Heritage Foundation.

Letter to the Editor

Fear of losing NMC’s accreditation, not Dr. Beno

I continue to read articles and speeches delivered by Rep. Stanley Torres about WASC and Dr. Beno.

First, Let’s get the record straight, Mr. Torres. WASC does not need NMC; NMC needs WASC. If we are to continue receiving millions of dollars of Pell grants, and in order for students’ grades to be transferable to other accredited colleges and universities in the United States, we better make sure our accreditation is not terminated.

Secondly, I recommend you read up on WASC eligibility requirements referring to Policy on Commission Actions and Institutions sections C: Actions that Terminate Accreditation. It states, “Terminate Accreditation. If, in the judgment of the Commission, an institution has not satisfactorily explained or corrected matters of which it has been given notice, or has taken an action that has placed it significantly out of compliance with Commission Standards, its accreditation *may be terminated* [emphasis added]. The Commission will give the institution written reasons for its decision. Termination of accreditation is subject to a request for review and appeal under the applicable policies and procedures of the Commission and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The accredited status of the institution continues pending completion of any review and appeal process the institution may request. Otherwise, the institution’s accreditation ends on the date when the time period permitting such a request expires. In such a case, the institution must complete again the entire accreditation process.”






Rep. Torres, your recent statements are very devastating to NMC’s accreditation status, but it shows how ill-advised you are in the policy of WASC when it comes to *political interference*!

Why didn’t you demand that the Attorney General investigate Janet King’s action on the initial illegal appointment of her interim president? Next, why haven’t you spoken up when the Board of Regents paid for two college presidents in the amount

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

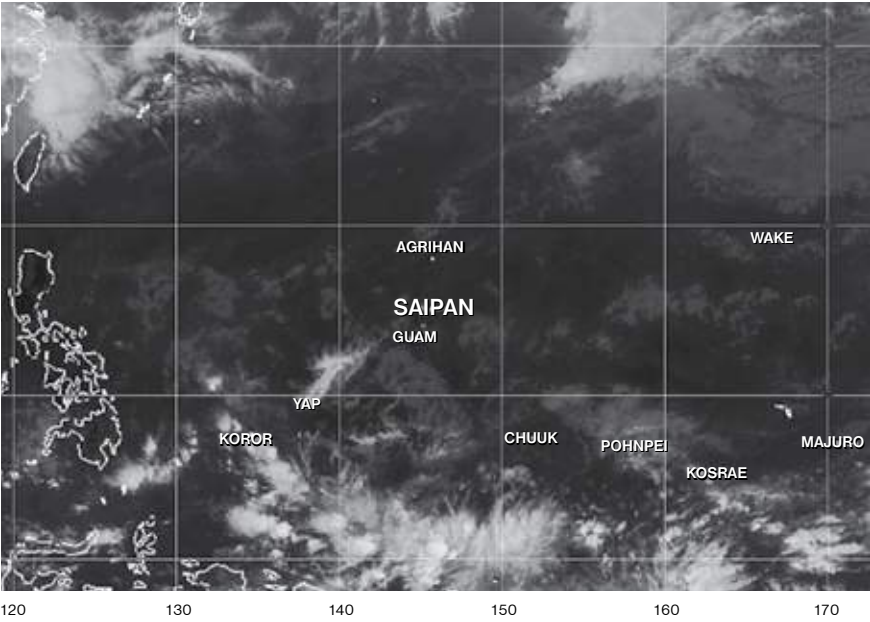
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 33
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 78 ▼ 63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 92 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 76 ▼ 66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 47
Osaka	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Pusan	Windy	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Rome	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 46
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 36
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 55

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
6:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
12:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
6:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N180E to 23N170E then westward to end near 21N151E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles north of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 5N130E through a weak circulation just southwest of Koror centered at 6N133E then continues southeastward to end near EQ160E. Scattered showers are found just south of Koror between 7N and 2N from 133E to 137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 5N139E to 1N150E and along and up to 100 miles north of the equator from 150E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of the Marshall Islands between 3N and the equator from 166E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:15 AM	4:38 PM
Tuesday	4:50 AM	5:26 PM
Wednesday	5:27 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	7:09 PM
Friday	6:51 AM	8:04 PM

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- PICTURES**
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 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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 - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM					GUAM-ROTA (ROP)				
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5		C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUAM					GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily		C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily		C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily	
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily		C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily		DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily	
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily		DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily	
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5		OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1		OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6		CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN		OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					via ICN	
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS	
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM	
					OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS		OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM		PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau		C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau	
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM		C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG					HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN		OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					via ICN	
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM					via ICN	
					OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
					OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
					C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Eucon's first classical concert is a big hit



The performers of the Eucon Classical Concert all came out to take a curtain call at the end of the event.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 400 people trooped to the Eucon International College Saturday evening for its first classical concert in their campus auditorium in Gualo Rai.

Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei, who welcomed the crowd with a greeting and prayer, said the concert was intended to promote the school's fine arts program

as well as the importance of music and the pursuit of higher education.

"We want everyone to know that the CNMI is a great place where people can enjoy both tourism and education," said Dr. Wei.

The two-hour concert, which lasted from 6pm to 8pm, included 12 performances of popular classical works by artists such as Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, Johan Pachelbel, Andrew

Lloyd Webber, and more.

Seven instrumental solos were performed on piano, trumpet, trombone, flute, Chinese flute, and violin (with piano accompaniment). In addition to the instrumental solos were two opera performances, a violin duet, a five-member string ensemble, and a grand finale performance that featured all the musicians.

The opera pieces were performed

by a special guest from Guam, Dr. Yoh Shirato. Dr. Shirato holds an undergraduate degree in Music with a focus on Opera and a doctorate in Theology from Bob Jones University. He currently teaches at the Harvest Christian Academy in Guam. Dr. Shirato sang one solo and performed his other work accompanied by piano and trumpet. He also conducted the students during the concert finale.

After the performances, Dr. Wei thanked the crowd for their support and ended the evening with a closing prayer.

"I think the response was very good. Our young people worked very hard preparing for tonight. I am pleased with the big turnout we received for our first ever concert. In closing, I would like to remind everyone to use music to make yourself a better person," said Dr. Wei.

Hyatt hosts 3rd annual 'Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous'

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Third Annual Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous took place at the Hyatt Regency Garden last Friday evening and featured international culinary masterpieces from Japan, South America, and Italy.

All menus were centered on a Certified Angus Beef theme, but some side selections featured vegetable dishes that complimented the beef entrees. The exquisite selection of wines, beers, sakes, shochu, and martinis were also intended to complement the featured Angus beef selections.

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo said the event proceeded soundly without any setbacks.

"I'm proud of my dining staff because they did a really good job tonight. We came into the night well prepared for this event and I am glad that everything tasted as good as it looked," said Colombo.

Hyatt Food and Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosle was also pleased with the execution of the garden dinner.

"Everyone appeared to be having a great time and the food was beautiful and delicious. I noticed that most of the patrons really were going around every booth to try all the new menu items," said Rajebhosle.

A dessert exhibit was also on hand featuring savory delights such as profiteroles with chocolate ganache, rustic Creole praline, fresh fruits, coconut cream tartlets, and more.

Triple J Saipan Inc. provided the certified Angus beef used to prepare the themed menu selections. These special selections will be featured in the menus at the Hyatt's Kili Cafe and Restaurant until May 15, 2010.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Third Annual Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous featured culinary masterpieces from Italy, Japan, and South America.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Guests pose for a picture as they enjoy their evening with cocktails and certified Angus beef menu selections at the Hyatt Regency Garden.

Pacific Trading Company provided the Kendall Jackson and Camelot wines, as well as sake, shochu, martini, and Miller beverages for the cocktail dinner.

A total of 25 prizes were raffled off throughout the night, including certified Angus beef merchandise, two sets of

steak knives, bottles of wine, massage and spa packages, hotel stays, gift certificates, and certified Angus beef packages (provided by Super Fresh Market).

A four-member band, Star Society, provided live entertainment for the evening.



Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, center, poses with Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles V. Cepeda, right, Cepeda's wife Cathy, second from right, and other guests at the Hyatt Regency's garden.

WALTER SUTHERLAND



From left, Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles V. Cepeda, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Triple J Saipan Inc. Human Resource manager Jay Santos, and Hyatt Regency Saipan Food and Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosle pose for a photo at the Hyatt Regency's garden.

WALTER SUTHERLAND



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to our lovely Mom and Grandma! May the Lord bless you today and always! Greetings from your rascals and grandrascals with tons of love!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
Happy anniversary to the best parents any rascals and grandrascals could ever ask for! May the Lord continue to bless you both for we are blessed to have you both! We love you!

Business

Southern California court gets Toyota lawsuits



By CURT ANDERSON
AP LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—A federal judge in Southern California was chosen Friday to preside over more than 200 lawsuits filed against Toyota in the aftermath of the automaker's sudden acceleration problems, which could potentially mushroom into one of the nation's biggest product liability cases.

A judicial panel consolidated the ever-growing list of cases before U.S. District Judge James V. Selna, 65, a 2003 appointee of former President George W. Bush. Selna's court is in Orange County, California, near Los Angeles and close to Toyota's U.S. headquarters.

"This is a big milestone in what will be a very historic case," said Tim Howard, a Northeastern University law professor who leads a group of attorneys in 26 states who are suing Toyota.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government says in a letter to Toyota that it's considering a second civil penalty against the automaker.

Toyota is already facing a fine of more than \$16 million for failing to promptly notify the government about defective gas pedals.

The Transportation Department told Toyota in a letter this week that accelerator pedals involved in the recall exhibited two separate defects that may require two separate remedies.

The government also says if there weren't a cap of about \$16.4 million on fines, Toyota could have faced civil penalties of \$13.8 billion. That's because the government could fine the company \$6,000 for each of the 2.3 million vehicles under recall.

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide.

Attorneys estimate that if Toyota were to settle the cases for even a modest payout to affected motorists, it could cost the company at least \$3 billion and possibly much more. In comparison, drugmaker Merck & Co. has paid more than \$4.8 billion into a settlement fund for tens of thousands of claims

from people who used its withdrawn painkiller Vioxx.

Selna, one of six federal judges in Orange County, will hear important pretrial motions for all cases, eventually leading to trial, settlement or dismissal of the lawsuits. Selna declined comment through a spokeswoman.

Attorney Mark Robinson Jr., who practices in Orange County and is representing Toyota owners in some of the cases, said Selna has broad experience with more than 28 years as a practicing lawyer before his appointment to the federal bench.

"He's a very skilled judge. He will do everything appropriately," said Robinson, who is best known for negotiating a \$128 million settlement in a case involving exploding fuel tanks on

the Ford Pinto.

Toyota, in a statement, said it is "pleased with the decision and the location" of the consolidation of lawsuits.

More than 130 lawsuits are potential class-action cases filed by Toyota owners who claim their vehicles plummeted in value after the recalls. A key early decision in those cases is whether to establish millions of similar Toyota owners as a single class, meaning all would be affected by a potential damages award or settlement.

At least 100 other lawsuits seek damages from Toyota for injuries or deaths attributed to sudden acceleration, which the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation determined should also be part of the centralized case.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Judge approves \$110M settlement in E-Ferol case

DALLAS (AP)—A federal judge has approved a \$110 million class-action settlement against the manufacturer and distributor of an intravenous vitamin E supplement that federal officials have linked to the deaths of dozens of premature infants in the mid-1980s. U.S. District Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater approved the settlement Friday in the North Texas town of Wichita Falls, according to court documents. Art Brender, a lawyer representing 369 plaintiffs, said Saturday the supplement was on the market for 4½ months before it was recalled in April 1984. Federal health officials have linked E-Ferol to the deaths of about 40 babies. E-Ferol was marketed and administered without approval from the Food and Drug Administration as a way to prevent or reduce blindness in premature babies. Research determined the agent that made the vitamin E water soluble was causing symptoms including kidney and liver failure in the babies, Brender said.

China's \$7.24B March trade deficit 1st in 6 years

SHANGHAI (AP)—For the first time in six years, China's imports in March outpaced its exports, leaving a \$7.24 billion shortfall that Beijing says reflects a trend toward more balanced trade but is likely to be short-lived. Last month's trade deficit with the rest of the world may buy China some respite from building pressure to revalue its currency, though its surpluses with the United States and Europe remain as

robust as ever. Even if China allows the yuan to gain slightly in value against the dollar in coming weeks, the shift is unlikely to settle the raging debate over whether its currency policy is unfairly distorting trade. "The calm won't last. China's trade surplus will soon reappear. Indeed, the surplus that matters most politically, that with the U.S., is already rising again and not far off a record high," Mark Williams, senior economist with Capital Economics, said in a report Saturday.

Badgers cut ties with Nike over labor concerns

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The University of Wisconsin canceled its licensing agreement with Nike Inc. on Friday, becoming the first university to take that step over concerns about the company's treatment of workers in Honduras. Chancellor Biddy Martin said Nike hasn't done enough to help workers collect severance payments they are owed at two factories that abruptly closed last year. "Nike has not developed, and does not intend to develop, meaningful ways of addressing the plight of displaced workers and their families in Honduras," Martin said. "It has not presented clear long-range plans to prevent or respond to similar problems in the future. For this combination of reasons, we have decided to end our relationship for now." Nike expressed disappointment with the university's decision in a statement released Friday night, while noting the factories were operated by subcontractors. Under Nike policy, subcontractors are responsible for compensation of their employees.

Obama advertises tax breaks ahead of Tax Day

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just ahead of Tax Day, President Barack Obama is urging Americans to take advantage of tax credits for first-time homebuyers, college students and others.

Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to promote some of the tax benefits in last year's stimulus bill, saying they could save people hundreds or even thousands of dollars and were available to

more than 100 million Americans. Even those who file before the April 15 deadline can amend their returns if there are savings they missed, Obama noted.

"No one I've met is looking for a handout. And that's not what these tax cuts are," Obama said. "Instead, they're targeted relief to help middle-class families weather the storm, to jump-start our economy and to bring the fundamentals of the American dream—

making an honest living, earning an education, owning a home and raising a family—back within reach for millions of Americans."

Credits taxpayers may be eligible for include:

■ Up to \$8,000 for first-time homebuyers. The credit will be available through the end of April.

■ Up to \$2,500 for college expenses.

■ Up to \$1,500 for making

energy-efficiency improvements to homes.

■ For new vehicles purchased between Feb. 17-Dec. 31, 2009, the state and local taxes can be deducted.

■ An expanded child tax credit providing \$1,000 for each child under 17.

■ The earned income tax credit now provides up to \$5,657 to low-income families with at least three children.

Americans' cell phone usage soars

By WAILIN WONG and
ZOE GALLAND
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—American mobile phone users are talking, texting and surfing the Web more than ever, according to new data from CTIA, the association for the U.S. wireless industry.

The CTIA's latest semi-annual industry survey showed that in the last half of 2009, consumers used more than 1.1 trillion minutes, up 38 billion from the same period in 2008. That amounts to 6.1 billion minutes per day. Consumers also sent almost 5 billion text messages per day in the last half of 2009.

In its news release, CTIA did not offer a comparative figure for text messaging. But the association did say that the number of multimedia messages—those that contain a picture or video—more than doubled on the year.

Consumption of wireless data continues to rise. The CTIA counted more than 257 million data-capable devices in circulation at the end of 2009, compared with 228 million a year earlier. Carriers saw revenues from data services jump 25.7 percent on the year to more than \$22 billion, representing more than 28 percent of total revenues.

Total wireless service revenues increased just slightly, from \$75 billion to \$77 billion. Industry analysts have said that carriers may soon introduce new pricing plans, including tiered pricing for data users, because revenues are not keeping pace with consumers' voracious data consumption.

Some politicians and technology experts have criticized the wireless carriers for charging for text messages in the first place. In June, Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., noted that from 2006 to

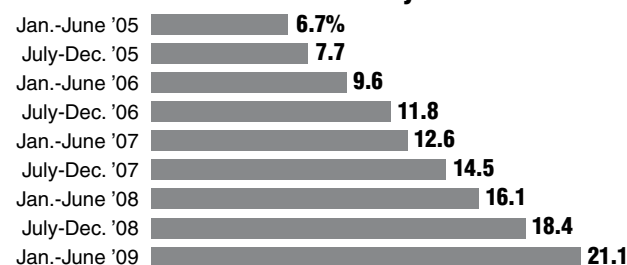
2008, the price of sending and receiving a text message among the four largest cell phone carriers increased by 100 percent,

from 10 to 20 cents per message. "The four companies increased their text messaging prices in two steps," Kohl said.

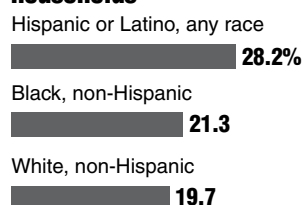
Cell phone usage

More Americans are dumping landlines in favor of wireless cell phones.

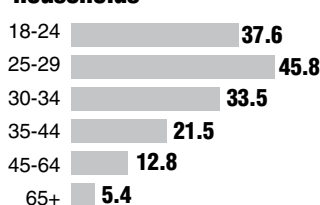
Percent distribution of wireless-only households



Race/ethnicity of wireless-only households



Age distribution of wireless-only households



Source: National Health Interview Survey, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Belinda Long-Ivey, Sun Sentinel
© 2010 MCT

Nation

Grieving begins, but life goes on at W.Va. mines

COMFORT, W.Va. (AP)—Time stopped five days ago for the families of 29 coal miners killed in the devastating explosion at Upper Big Branch mine.

As thousands waited, hoping for any word someone might have survived Monday's blast, life in coal country chugged on, men trudging underground day and night to fill the trucks and trains that haul away coal around the clock.

Mining is a way of life here. So is death.

Just miles from where families gathered to wait for news, a peddler of mining gear did brisk business and tired miners covered in coal dust picked up pizzas at the end of their shifts. In the quiet, humble neighborhoods that hug the Big Coal River, the work never stopped.

"When the World Trade Center was bombed, the world didn't shut down," said James Lipford, 38, a miner from Seth who was driving to the V-Mart convenience store early Saturday when he heard the last four bodies had been found deep inside Massey Energy Co.'s mine in Montcoal.

He knew three of those killed and worried all week, but never thought about quitting. After all, he says, coal company shareholders still expect profits. Homeowners expect to be able to turn on their lights with electricity generated by coal. His family expects him to bring home a paycheck so they can buy groceries.

"We go with a heavy heart," he said, "but you have to go."

It was the worst U.S. coal mining disaster since 1970, when an explosion killed 38 in Hyden, Ky.

Seven bodies were pulled from Upper Big Branch immediately after Monday's blast, but dangerous gases forced rescue crews out and it took days for them to get back in. They hoped four miners they had not accounted for might somehow have made it to a refuge chamber stocked with food, water and oxygen, but word came early Saturday that all had been found dead.

Crews realized late Friday they had walked past the four bodies that first day, but could not see them because the air was so smoky and dusty. The mas-



With her son Issac, 3, looking on, Angie Davis, right, is comforted by her friend Ashley Moore during a memorial vigil in Naoma, W.Va. on Saturday, April 10, 2010, for 29 miners who died in the explosion at Massey Energy Co.'s Upper Big Branch mine in Montcoal, W. Va. on Monday.

sive blast left the inside of the mine a mess of twisted tracks, boulders and debris. Two other miners were injured and one remains hospitalized.

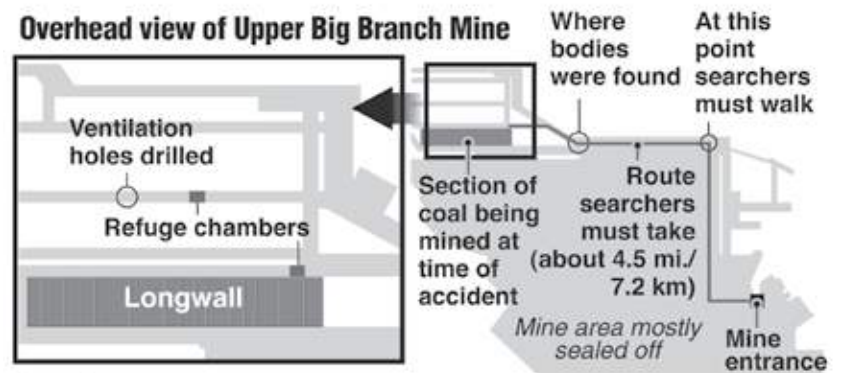
Twenty-eight of those killed worked for Virginia-based Massey and one was a contract worker for the company, which has been under scrutiny since the explosion for a string of safety violations at the mine. CEO Don Blankenship, who was with the families when they learned the miners were dead, has strongly defended the company's record and disputed accusations from miners that he puts coal profits ahead of safety.

Officials have not said what caused the blast, though they believe high levels of methane gas may have played a role. Massey has been repeatedly cited and fined for problems with the system that vents methane and for allowing combustible dust to build up.

President Barack Obama said Saturday that steps must be taken to make sure such an explosion does not happen again.

"We cannot bring back the men we lost," he said in a statement. "What we can do, in their memory, is thoroughly investigate this tragedy and demand accountability."

Rescuers searching for four missing miners had to evacuate after encountering smoke. Before retreating, rescue workers found one of the two airtight refuge chambers, which had not been deployed.



Source: Tribune Newspapers reporting
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Grandma: Boy terrorized adoptive family in US

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Torry Hansen was so eager to become a mother that she adopted an older child from a foreign country, two factors that scare off many prospective parents. Her bigger fears came later.

Torry's mother, Nancy Hansen, said the 7-year-old's violent episodes—which culminated in a threat to burn the family's home to the ground—terrified them into a shocking solution: The boy they renamed Justin was put on a plane by himself and sent back to Russia.

Now, outraged officials in that country are calling for a halt to adoptions by Americans, and authorities are investigating the family. However, Nancy Hansen told The Associated Press that the motives of her daughter—a 33-year-old, unmarried nurse—were sincere.

"The intent of my daughter was to have a family and the intent of my whole family was to love that child," she said Friday.

The family was told the boy, whose Russian name is Artyom Savelyev, was healthy in September when he was brought from the town of Partizansk in Russia's Far East to his new home in the heart of Tennessee horse country. The skinny boy seemed happy, but the behavioral problems began soon after, Hansen said.

"The Russian orphanage officials completely lied to her because they wanted to get rid of him," she said.

Hansen chronicled a list of problems: hitting, screaming and spitting at his mother and threatening to kill family members. Hansen said his eruptions were often sparked when he was denied something he wanted, like toys or video games.

"He drew a picture of our house burning down and he'll tell anybody that he's going to burn our house down with us in it," she said. "It got to be where you feared for your safety. It was terrible."

Hansen said she thought that with their love, they could help him. "I was wrong," she said.

Adoption experts say many families are blinded by their desire to adopt and don't always understand what the orphans have sometimes endured—especially older children who may have been neglected or abandoned.

"They're not prepared to appreciate, psychologically, the kinds of conditions these kids have been exposed to and the effect it has had on them," said Joseph LaBarbera, a clinical psychologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Hansen said her daughter sought advice from psychologists but never had her adoptive son meet with one. They chose an English-language home study program, hoping to enroll him in traditional school in the fall. He would play with his cousin, Logan, at the family's property in Shelbyville, where there is a large backyard and a swingset.

ACROSS THE NATION

Thousands rally for immigration reform across US

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Thousands of people rallied Saturday in several cities in a bid to urge Congress to act swiftly on immigration reform. Outside a federal building in Las Vegas, demonstrators cheered Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., who told them they're committed to making immigration reform a top priority. In the crowd, activists waved American flags while others held signs with slogans such as "Stop Tearing Our Families Apart," "Reform Now" and "Workers, Taxpayers, Voters." Reid, fresh from the recent health care reform fight and facing a tough re-election campaign of his own, told the crowd that there's urgency to pass

immigration reform legislation, which would include border security and a guest worker program for seasonal workers. Demonstrators also cheered Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., who has introduced immigration reform legislation that includes the path to legal status for millions of illegal immigrants.

GOP chairman Steele: 'I've made mistakes'

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In damage control mode, GOP national chairman Michael Steele on Saturday sought to quell the furor over his management of the Republican National Committee by acknowledging errors and vowing to learn from them. "I'm the first here to admit that I've made mistakes, and it's been incumbent on me to take responsibility to shoulder that burden, make the necessary changes and move

on," Steele told GOP activists and party leaders, drawing a standing ovation. "The one mistake we cannot make this November is to lose," he added, and the crowd cheered in agreement. Saturday's speech to the Southern Republican Leadership Conference was Steele's first public appearance since the disclosure of questionable spending—including a \$2,000 tab at a sex-themed California night club—resulted in top advisers cutting ties with him and North Carolina's state party chief calling for his resignation.

1 killed, several hurt in shooting at Okla. mall

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP)—Gunfire broke out inside a crowded Oklahoma shopping mall Saturday, leaving a teenager dead and several injured in what witnesses described as a gun-

fight, police said. Five people were taken to a hospital as authorities cordoned off the Arrowhead Mall in downtown Muskogee, an area crowded with visitors attending the city's annual Azalea Festival, police spokesman Pedro Zardeneta said. It was unclear whether the person killed, 17-year-old Jarrod Reed of Muskogee, was among several people involved in the shooting or a bystander, he said. Details about the other victims, including their conditions, haven't been released, hospital spokesman Chad Wetz said. Three people were being sought for questioning late Saturday, police said.

Magnitude-4.5 quake, others shake San Diego area

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A moder-

ate earthquake near the U.S.-Mexico border rattled parts of Imperial and San Diego counties as a swarm of seismic activity continues nearly a week after a magnitude-7.2 quake slammed the area. The U.S. Geological Survey says the magnitude-4.5 quake hit at 2:12 a.m. Saturday, about 16 miles west southwest of Calexico. No damage or injuries have been reported. More than a dozen quakes above magnitude-3.0 hit later in the day, including one at magnitude-3.7 shortly before noon. Seismologists canceled a report of a second magnitude-4.5 quake, blaming the reading on a computer glitch. Officials say the quake that shook Calexico and Mexicali, Mexico, last Sunday killed two people and caused an estimated \$100 million in damage to California alone. Mexican damage estimates were not yet available.

Asia

Protesters shun talks after deadly Bangkok clashes

By JOCELYN GECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government protesters said Sunday they would not negotiate an end to violence in the Thai capital after savage clashes between activists and soldiers that killed at least 18 people and injured hundreds.

Thousands of "Red Shirt" protesters swarmed back into an area that had briefly been taken by government forces Saturday night. Bullet casings, rocks and pools of blood littered the streets as protesters showed off a pile of weapons captured from the troops, including rifles and heavy caliber machine-gun rounds.

"There is no more negotiation. Red Shirts will never negotiate with murderers," a key protest leader, Jatuporn Prompan, announced from a makeshift stage. "Although the road is rough and full of obstacles, it's our duty to honor the dead by bringing democracy to this country."

■■■■■
TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese TV cameraman who worked for Reuters for more than 15 years was among those killed in a bloody clash in Thailand between anti-government protesters and soldiers.

Hiro Muramoto, 43, was shot Saturday while covering fighting in Bangkok, when Thai soldiers opened fire and sprayed tear gas to try to dislodge protesters from encampments in the capital.

Thailand's government said five soldiers and 13 civilians, including Muramoto, have died in the worst violence in Bangkok since more than four dozen people were killed in an antimilitary protest in 1992.

Muramoto, who was stationed in Tokyo but also went on overseas assignments, was married with two children, according to Thomson Reuters.

■■■■■
Hopes had been expressed that the two sides would come to the negotiating table after the worst violence in Bangkok since four dozen people were killed in a 1992 antimilitary protest.

Late Saturday, army troops pulled back and asked protesters to do the same, resulting in an unofficial truce.

Five soldiers and 13 civilians, including a Japanese cameraman for the Thomson Reuters news agency, were killed, according to the government's Erawan emergency center.

Calif. boy, 13, aims to be youngest on Everest peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—At age 13, Jordan Romero is headed to Mount Everest in an attempt to become the youngest person to scale the world's highest mountain—and complete his goal of climbing the highest peaks on all seven continents.

The teenager from Big Bear, California, was busy Saturday with his father Paul and stepmother Karen packing mountaineering gear and planning details of their expedition with three Sherpa guides who will accompany them.



Romero

The team leaves Katmandu, Nepal's capital, for China on Sunday and then will travel to the base camp on the Chinese side of the 29,035-foot (8,850-meter) mountain.

Jordan has already climbed the highest peaks on six other continents and hopes to reach Everest's summit in May.

"I just wanted to do something big, and this was something I wanted to do for myself. It was all about the experience and I just happen to be 13 at this time," Jordan told The

Thai television showed Red Shirts parading some soldiers they said were captured by the protesters. It wasn't clear how many soldiers they held, or what their status was on Sunday morning. The government did not disclose how many protesters had been detained.

Arrest warrants previously were issued for 27 Red Shirt leaders, but none is known to be in custody.

Editorials in Bangkok newspapers Sunday called for urgent talks between the government and so-called "Red Shirts," noting some protest leaders were ready for negotiations.

The violence erupted after security forces tried to push out demonstrators who have camped in parts of the capital for a month and staged disruptive protests demanding that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

The demonstrations are part of a long-running battle between the mostly poor and rural supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and the ruling elite they say orchestrated the 2006 military coup that removed him from power amid corruption allegations.

The protesters, called "Red Shirts" for their garb, see the Oxford-educated Abhisit as a symbol of an elite impervious to the plight of Thailand's poor and claim he took office illegitimately in December 2008 after the military pressured Parliament to vote for him.

Saturday's violence and failure to dislodge the protesters are likely to make it harder to end the political deadlock. Previously, both sides had exercised considerable restraint.

Abhisit "failed miserably," said Michael Nelson, a German scholar of Southeast Asian studies working in Bangkok.

Tanet Charoengmuang, a political scientist at Chiang Mai University sympathetic to the Red Shirt's cause, said he expects the fighting will resume because the protesters are unafraid and the government refused to listen to them.

Abhisit went on national television shortly before midnight to pay condolences to the families of victims and indirectly assert that he would not bow to the protesters' demands.

"The government and I are still responsible for easing the situation and trying to bring peace and order to the country," Abhisit said.

Associated Press.

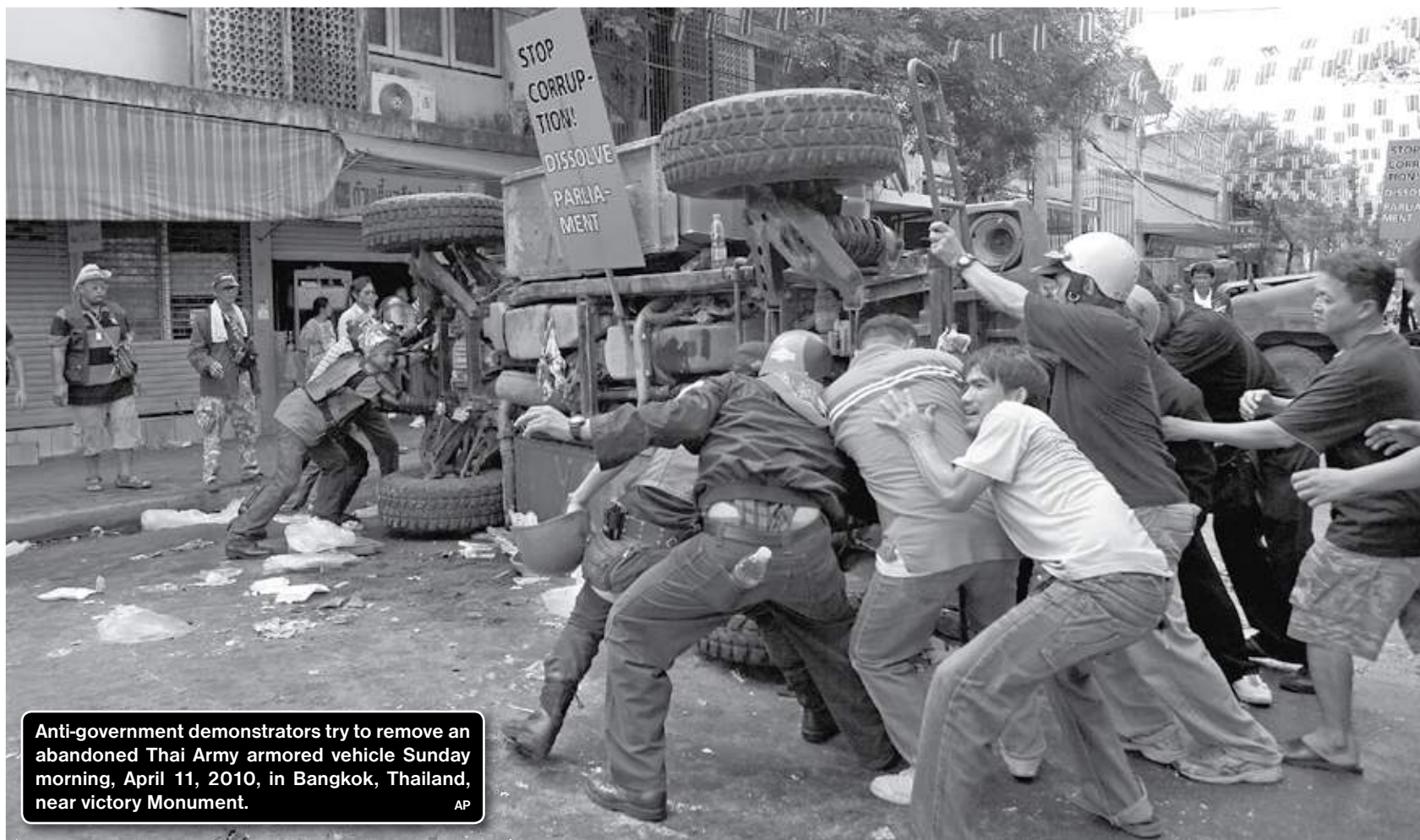
The record for the youngest climb of Everest is held by Temba Tsheri of Nepal, who reached the peak at age 16.

Jordan, who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa when he was 10 years old, says he was inspired by a painting in his school hallway of the seven continents' highest summits.

Everest, however, will be his first over 8,000 meters (26,240 feet).

"This will be a big leap, but we have been training for the altitude," he said.

His father and stepmother have also accompanied him on his previous climbs.



Anti-government demonstrators try to remove an abandoned Thai Army armored vehicle Sunday morning, April 11, 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand, near victory Monument. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipinos overseas start voting for next president

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos abroad started voting on Saturday for the country's next president, a monthlong period that leads up to the national balloting. The Philippine embassies and consulates in Hong Kong and Singapore will use automatic counting machines, which will be deployed nationwide for the first time in a general election. Just a little over half a million have registered for the overseas absentee voting, a small fraction of the estimated 9 million Filipinos working abroad who help keep the economy afloat by remitting billions of dollars yearly. Overseas voters can elect the president, vice president, 12 senators and choose one of over 100 parties representing marginalized groups.

8 bodies recovered at China mine where 115 saved

BEIJING (AP)—Rescuers recovered five more bodies Sunday at a flooded mine in northern China, bringing the death toll to 33 and leaving little hope of finding survivors, state media reported. Authorities continued pumping water from the pit where 115 workers were rescued last week after more than a week trapped underground. The Wangjialing mine flooded March 28 when workers digging tunnels broke into a water-filled abandoned shaft. Of the 153 miners originally trapped, five are still missing, Xinhua News Agency said. It was unlikely anyone could survive nearly two weeks underground. No signs of life have been detected since the dramatic rescues on April 5.

Officials say Pakistani strikes kill 96 militants

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—

Pakistani airstrikes killed nearly 100 suspected militants in two northwest tribal regions Saturday, an apparent intensification of efforts by the army to mop up Taliban fighters fleeing a military operation farther south. The strikes were carried out in the Orakzai and Khyber tribal regions. In Orakzai, some 54 alleged militants were killed during ongoing clashes over a checkpoint in the Baizoti town area, local official Samiullah Khan told The Associated Press. Another 42 people, most of them suspected insurgents, died in the Khyber tribal region when military jets pounded a hide-out there in the Sra Walla area. The location was believed to be a gathering point for the Lashkar-e-Islam insurgent group.

3 Italians among 9 held in alleged Afghan plot

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Three Italian medical workers are among nine people who were detained in an alleged plot to kill an Afghan provincial governor, officials said Saturday. They were detained after suicide bomb vests, hand grenades, pistols and explosives were discovered in a hospital storeroom in Lashkar Gah, the capital of the southern province of Helmand, a spokesman for the provincial government said. Police were tipped off about a plot to kill Helmand's governor during a future visit to the hospital, spokesman Daud Ahmadi said Saturday. A video of the raid obtained by Associated Press Television News shows British troops accompanying Afghan police, soldiers and government officials to the city's Emergency Surgery Center for Civilian War Victims, run by the Italian private group Emergency.

World

Top Polish political, military killed in jet crash

SMOLENSK, Russia (AP)—The crash of an aging Russian airliner ravaged the top levels of Poland's military, political and church elite Saturday, killing the Polish president and dozens of other dignitaries as they traveled to a ceremony commemorating a slaughter that has divided the two nations for seven decades.

Poles wept before their televisions, lowered flags to half-staff and taped black ribbons in their windows after hearing that President Lech Kaczynski and the upper echelons of the establishment lay dead in woods a short drive from the site of the Katyn forest massacre, where 22,000 Polish officers were killed by Soviet secret police in one of Poland's greatest national traumas.

Thousands of people, many in tears, placed candles and flowers at the presidential palace in central Warsaw. Many called the crash Poland's worst disaster since World War II.

Twenty monks rang the Zygmunt bell at Krakow's Wawel Cathedral—the burial spot of Polish kings—a tolling reserved for times of profound importance or grief.

The crash also shocked Russia. Sensing the depth of the tragedy for Poland, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin personally took charge of the investigation and very quickly and publicly offered condolences, along with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"On this difficult day the people of Russia stand with the Polish people," Medvedev said, according to the Kremlin press service.

Chunks of the plane were scattered widely amid leafless trees and small fires in woods shrouded with fog. A tail fin with the red and white national colors of Poland stuck up from the smoking debris. Early indications pointed to pilot error in heavy fog as a factor in the crash, officials said.

On board were the national bank



president, deputy foreign minister, army chaplain, head of the National Security Office, deputy parliament speaker, Olympic Committee head, civil rights commissioner and at least two presidential aides and three lawmakers, the Polish foreign ministry said. Kaczynski's wife, Maria, also died.

"This is unbelievable—this tragic, cursed Katyn," Kaczynski's predecessor, Aleksander Kwasniewski, said on TVN24 television.

It is "a cursed place, horrible symbolism," he said. "It's hard to believe. You get chills down your spine."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and some cabinet members flew to Smolensk from Warsaw. The president's twin brother, former Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, headed to the

area in a chartered plane along with party members.

Television showed Jaroslaw kneeling and praying at the crash site. Tusk, joined by Putin, placed a wreath at the site and knelt. When he stood up, Putin hugged him.

Afterward, Putin and Tusk held a video conference with members of a special commission in Moscow, who told them that doctors, psychologists and other specialists were ready to assist relatives of the victims. They said some bodies have already been flown to Moscow for identification and were being taken to the morgue.

The Polish military suffered the deepest losses. Among the dead were the army chief of staff, the navy chief commander, and heads

of the air and land forces, who were all making the emotional trip to honor the Polish officers slain by the NKVD, the acronym for the So-

WORLD BRIEFS

Haitians relocated to new camps as rains loom

CORAIL-CESSELESSE, Haiti (AP)—The first of 50,000 earthquake victims that officials fear are most threatened by Haiti's looming rainy season were relocated Saturday as non-profit groups scrambled to receive them. Adults and children living at the Petionville golf course walked up a steep hill with their belongings and climbed into buses that rumbled off to yet another temporary home. They wore yellow wristbands that indicated their departure time and new neighborhood: Corail-Cesselesse, an extremely dry and dusty area about nine miles (15 kilometers) north of Port-au-Prince. U.N. and U.S. officials recommended the relocation of 7,500 people within 10 days because they are at high risk of flooding or mudslides in the makeshift camps at the Petionville golf course.

Reports: Israel's Olmert says he never took bribes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says he rejects the "innuendo" linking him to a new corruption case. Israeli newspapers on Sunday quoted Olmert as saying, "I never took bribes." He told Army Radio, "I reject the innuendo and the suspicions it implies. They are baseless." Last week, a longtime Olmert confidant and five others were arrested in a multimillion-dollar bribery scandal. The money allegedly changed hands to promote several real-estate projects, including a large development in Jerusalem that required a radical change in zoning laws. Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem when the bribery allegedly took place. It is not clear whether he was implicated because there is a partial gag order on the case.



viet secret police at the time of the killings in 1940.

Some on board were relatives of the officers slain in the Katyn massacre. Also among the victims was Anna Walentynowicz, whose firing in August 1980 from the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk sparked a workers' strike that spurred the eventual creation of the Solidarity freedom movement.

"This is a great tragedy, a great shock to us all," former president and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said.

Olmert is standing trial on separate corruption charges.

6,000 demonstrators protest Togo election results

LOME, Togo (AP)—More than 6,000 opposition demonstrators have taken to the streets in the West African nation of Togo to protest presidential election results. Togo's constitutional court has declared victory for the son of the country's former dictator and has dismissed fraud complaints following the disputed March election. Supporters of opposition candidate Jean-Pierre Fabre maintain he was the rightful winner. Fabre told The Associated Press on Saturday that he is ready to hold discussions to resolve the political standoff. The constitutional court's ruling gave Faure Gnassingbe a nearly 61 percent victory. Gnassingbe seized power in 2005 after the death of his father. The same family has ruled Togo for the past 43 years.

Bomb damages US consulate in Mexico; no injuries

MEXICO CITY (AP)—An attacker threw an explosive device over the wall around the U.S. consulate in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, breaking windows and startling employees inside but causing no injuries, the U.S. Embassy said Saturday. The attack, which took place about 11:30 p.m. Friday, is under investigation, embassy spokesman Claude Young said. Young said the consulate and the consular agency in the border town of Piedras Negras would be closed Monday pending a review of security measures. Mexican federal prosecutors in the capital said they were reviewing evidence from the scene, including video feeds from security cameras at the consulate.

Katyn touches another Polish generation

By **MATT MOORE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—He died en route to the most sensitive mission possible—a visit to the place that has driven a wedge between Poles and Russians for three generations.

The death of Lech Kaczynski, Poland's president and dozens of his high-level countrymen in a plane crash, and the purpose behind the journey, laid bare the deep divisions that remain between two nations still struggling to be more than uneasy neighbors who watch each other with skepticism and suspicion.

Saturday's planned visit to the Katyn forest was somber in purpose but underscored his suspicious eye of the massive neighbor and former taskmaster to the east. The memorial service was to mark the 70th anniversary of the killing of thousands of Polish officers and intellectuals by the Soviet secret security during World War II.

Katyn. The site of the massacre of Polish military officers, priests, shopkeepers. Men shot in the back of the

head by Josef Stalin's NKVD, the precursor of the KGB.

"It is an accursed place," former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told TVN24 after the crash.

Janusz Bugajski of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said that Saturday's crash has put Katyn at the center of Polish-Russian relations.

"It brought to the forefront again an event that Moscow would like to forget or, if not to forget, to sideline," he said, noting that Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin took a significant step by attending the Katyn commemorations last Wednesday with Polish counterpart Donald Tusk.

The ancient city of Smolensk has long played a significant and somewhat symbolic role in Russian-Polish relations.

Russian and Polish rulers fiercely fought over it for centuries, as well as over other contested territories in today's Ukraine and Belarus, and the Russian takeover of the city in the mid-17th century preceded Moscow's takeover of eastern Polish lands.

Earlier this week, Poles took deep

satisfaction in Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's presence at the memorial for the 22,000 killed there.

Putin was the first Russian leader to commemorate the Katyn massacres with a Polish leader and noted that both nations' "fates had been inexorably joined" by the atrocities that saw 22,000 Polish officers, prisoners and intellectuals massacred by Stalin's secret police in 1940 in and around Katyn, a village near Russia's border with Belarus.

"In our country there has been a clear political, legal and moral judgment made of the evil acts of this totalitarian regime, and this judgment cannot be revised," he said, but he did not apologize or call it a war crime.

Listening to the remarks was the Polish prime minister, Tusk, not Kaczynski who, as president, was not invited to the event.

"It was a step forward. He could have not shown up, he could have not invited Tusk," Bugajski said.

Instead Kaczynski, along with others, made their own trip Saturday for Polish-only commemorations.

Health & Fitness

Developing test to warn smokers of cancer danger

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists may have found a way to tell which smokers are at highest risk of developing lung cancer: measuring a telltale genetic change inside their windpipes.

A test based on the research is being developed in hopes of detecting this deadly cancer earlier, when it's more treatable.

And if the work pans out, the next big question is: Might it even be possible to reverse this genetic chain reaction before it ends in full-blown cancer? The researchers found a tantalizing early hint among a handful of people given an experimental drug.

"They're heading toward lung cancer, and we can identify them with this genomic test,"

said Dr. Avrum Spira of Boston University School of Medicine, who led the research published Wednesday in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Lung cancer - which killed nearly 160,000 Americans last year - is the leading cancer killer, and cigarette smoke is by far its main cause. Yet, not all smokers develop lung cancer; Spira cites estimates that 10 to 20 percent will. The risk depends in part on how much people smoke, for how long and how long ago they quit - but there's no way to predict who will escape it and who will not. Nor is there a good way to detect early-stage tumors. Consequently, most people are diagnosed too late for today's treatments to do much good.

"Even for people who have stopped smoking, there's a sig-

nificant risk of cancer down the road, and it would be nice to identify which patients are really at risk," said Duke University lung cancer specialist Dr. Neal Ready, who wasn't involved in the new research but called it intriguing.

"To have some sort of molecular test that would identify those patients would be very useful," he added, because they could receive close monitoring with lung scans that aren't practical for everybody.

Rather than focusing on the lung itself, Spira's team took a different approach. Smoking bathes the entire respiratory tract in toxins. So he hunted for the earliest signs of impending lung cancer upstream, in how different genes are turned on and off inside the upper airway as the body tries to defend it-



In this photo taken April 6, 2010, released by Boston University School of Medicine, David Lowney, left, undergoes a bronchoscopy by Boston University School of Medicine researchers Dr. Avrum Spira, center, and Dr. Frank Schrembi, right, in Boston. The procedure is part of a test to measure a genetic change inside patients' windpipes to try to tell which smokers are at the highest risk of developing lung cancer.

Personal Trainer

How flexible are you?

Here's an easy test that will let you assess how flexible your hips, thighs and lower back are:

- 1 Find a box or step 8 in. (20 cm) tall, a ruler, and a friend to help you take the test

- 2 Before taking the test, do a 5-minute aerobic warm-up by running gently in place; stretch to loosen your thighs, hips and back

- 3 Sit with the soles of your feet against the box; have your helper hold a ruler with its zero point 6 in. (15 cm) in front of the box

- 4 Reach as far forward as you can without bending your knees; have your helper check how far you reached

Check your score on this table

	Women	Men
High flexibility	14 in. (35 cm) or more	15 in. (38 cm) or more
Above average	11-13 in. (26-34 cm)	12-14 in. (30-37 cm)
Average	7-10 in. (16-25 cm)	7-11 in. (16-29 cm)
Below average	4-6 in. (10-15 cm)	4-6 in. (10-15 cm)
Low	3 in. (9 cm) or less	3 in. (9 cm) or less

NOTE: Figures are rounded to make measurement easier

These figures are for 20-year-olds; for each 10 years beyond that, subtract 1 in. (2.5 cm) to get the normal score

EXAMPLE: A 62-year-old woman who can reach 11 in. (28 cm) has excellent flexibility

Begin regular stretching exercises, and you will be able to watch your score improve

© 2010 MCT

self and those defenses weaken over time.

At least 100,000 smokers or former smokers a year have a tube snaked down their throat to look for signs of cancer if an X-ray or other test detects something suspicious, Spira explained. Bronchoscopies can be used for a look down into the lung, but Spira was interested instead in cells that line the windpipe, collected during the

same procedure.

Sure enough, he found a genomic signature—a pattern of gene activity—in otherwise normal windpipes that distinguished some current or former smokers who had lung cancer from those who didn't.

Then with Dr. Andrea Bild of the University of Utah, Spira analyzed cells from 129 current and former smokers and found the genes involved were part

of a well-known cancer-causing pathway named the PI3K pathway. When PI3K-related genes are too active, too much cell growth can occur, but most studies have examined those genes only in tumors.

On Wednesday, Spira reported finding PI3K activation in some current or former smokers with precancerous lesions, too, but not in those with other lung diseases.

Study: Chocolate could reduce heart risk

LONDON (AP)—The Easter Bunny might lower your chances of having a heart problem. According to a new study, small doses of chocolate every day could decrease your risk of having a heart attack or stroke by nearly 40 percent.

German researchers followed nearly 20,000 people over eight years, sending them several questionnaires about their diet and exercise habits.

They found people who had an average of six grams of chocolate per day—or about one square of a chocolate bar—had a 39 percent lower risk of either a heart attack or stroke. The study is scheduled to be published Wednesday in the *European Heart Journal*.

Previous studies have suggested dark chocolate in small amounts could be good for you, but this is the first study to track its effects over such a long period of time. Experts think the flavonols contained in chocolate are responsible. Flavonols help the muscles in blood vessels widen, which leads to a drop in blood pressure.

"It's a bit too early to come up with recommendations that people should eat more chocolate, but if people replace sugar or high-fat snacks with a little piece of dark chocolate, that might help," said Brian Buijsse, a nutritional epidemiologist at the German Institute of Human Nutrition in Nuthetal, Germany,

the study's lead author.

The people tracked by Buijsse and colleagues had no history of heart problems, had similar habits for risk factors like smoking and exercise, and did not vary widely in their Body Mass Index.

Since the study only ob-

served people and did not give them chocolate directly to test what its effects were, experts said more research was needed to determine the candy's exact impact on the body. The study was paid for by the German government and the European Union.

Health Matters

A helping hand

Reflexology uses pressure points on the body's extremities to reduce tension and stress. Some reflexology points on the hand:

Head, sinuses
Fingertips

Neck

Upper back

Shoulder

Diaphragm

Stress

Back

Massaging up and down thumb

Anxiety, poor memory, sadness

Hand reflexology

- Areas on the hand correspond to different parts of the body
- Applying pressure to an area helps to relieve tension elsewhere

History

- Egyptians used a method similar to reflexology as early as 2330 B.C.
- Physical therapist Eunice Ingham pioneered the field with her first book on reflexology in 1938

Other benefits

- Increased blood flow, improved circulation
- Used as a preventative measure against injury
- Can alleviate allergy symptoms, back pain and chronic fatigue

Source: American Reflexology Certification Board, International Institute of Reflexology, AARP
Graphic: Anna Eisenberg

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Life & Style

Tina Fey and her Palin impression return to 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—She's back and wearing leather.

Tina Fey reprised her impression of Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live" while hosting the NBC sketch comedy show Saturday night. It was Fey's

first performance as the former Alaska governor since her iconic impressions during the 2008 presidential campaign when Palin was the Republican vice presidential candidate.

Fey appeared as Palin in

a sketch introducing a mock "Sarah Palin Network," satirizing Palin's entry into media. Palin recently launched the program "Real American Stories" on Fox News Channel and will soon begin production on "Sarah Palin's Alaska," an eight-part series for TLC.

Appearing as Palin in a leather jacket with an American flag pin, Fey introduced a lineup of shows like "Tea Party Wheel of Fortune" (the puzzle read "Obamar is a terrorist"), "Are You Smarter than a Half-Term Governor?" and "30 Main Street," a

parody of her own "30 Rock."

Other fake shows included "Hey Journalist, I Gotcha," in which Palin re-edited interviews to make it look like her interviewers—like CBS' Katie Couric—were "woefully unprepared." Also touted was a spinoff starring husband Todd Palin (played on "SNL" by cast member Jason Sudeikis) as a renegade police officer transferred from Alaska to New York.

Fey made four appearances in 2008 as Palin, earning her an Emmy last year for guest ac-

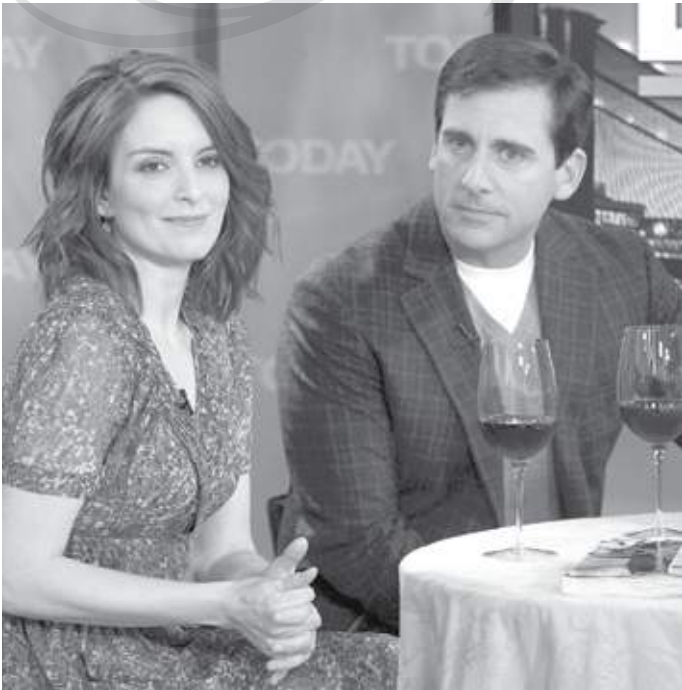
tor. She was also voted 2008's AP Entertainer of the Year. The 39-year-old comedian said the whole experience was "a little overwhelming," but in a recent interview with The Associated Press, she said reprising Palin was "inevitable."

Shortly before the 2008 election, Palin made a cameo appearance on "SNL" alongside Fey. Afterward, Palin said she had fun on the show and would do it again if asked. In her memoir, "Going Rogue," Palin wrote that she grew up watching "SNL."

Fey, who was a cast member and head writer on "SNL" before leaving to create "30 Rock" on NBC, had plenty of other fodder for her second stint hosting "SNL."

She played a new gum-smacking blond analyst for CBS' coverage of the Masters, claiming to be a former girlfriend of Tiger Woods.

Fey also appeared in a sketch with the show's musical guest, the 16-year-old pop sensation Justin Bieber. Fey played a lonely teacher haunted by sexual fantasies of the young Bieber.



AP
In this photo provided by NBC Universal, actors Tina Fey and Steve Carell appear on NBC's "Today" show to promote their movie "Date Night", in New York, on Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

'Trek' fans, want Picard's chair? It's for sale

LAS VEGAS (AP)—"Star Trek" lovers looking for Enterprise chairs, Starfleet uniforms or a model Klingon Bird of Prey can seek out new life for the dismantled pieces of a closed Las Vegas attraction based on the famous franchise.

Auctioneer Propworx Inc. plans to sell roughly 1,000 items large and small from Star Trek: The Experience at a warehouse sale Saturday in Las Vegas, CEO Alec Peters said.

The attraction, based on the beloved television series and movies, closed in 2008 after a 10-year run.

"Anything like this, you're sad to see it go, but on the other hand it's an opportunity for fans to preserve the stuff," Peters said. "It's an opportunity for the studio to get it in the hands of people who made it great."

"I think it is bittersweet—we try to make it fun," Peters said.

Among the items for sale are three large models of spaceships in need of repair or restoration—the U.S.S. Enterprise A, the U.S.S. Voyager and the Bird of Prey—as well as a replica of the Enterprise bridge from "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Peters said a Borg alcove—where members of the synthetically enhanced drone race recharge and synch with a hive mind—is on sale for \$800.

Also on sale are costumes and knickknacks, starting at \$10, Peters said.

The attraction folded in "Star Trek" mythology, billing itself

as a "21st-century time station" used to transport personnel and equipment to and from the late 24th century. The story was that the Experience let folks of the future meet and study many human cultures in a single place where they often converge—Sin City.

The attraction included two rides where visitors were transported to the U.S.S. Enterprise, rode in a shuttle or faced a Borg encounter.

Mike Cornwell, the executive officer of a local Star Trek fan club that helped set up the memorabilia sale, said Friday that members of the club have been sad about the immersive experience going away.

"We see it as such a waste that they closed it down," Cornwell said. "It's really a blow to all Star Trek fans everywhere."

Cornwell, 47, said he hopes to buy a certain piece of the exhibit's History of the Future, which chronicled the history of the Star Trek universe.

CBS Television Distribution, which owns the rights to the franchise, has a licensing deal in place for a Star Trek exhibit in downtown Las Vegas through its consumer products division. No timeline for that attraction has been announced.

CBS Consumer Products has a deal with Kennedy Space Center on a live 30-minute live stage show based on the universe from the 2009 "Star Trek" movie. The show is to debut in June.

In Loving Memory of †JOSE OGO DELA CRUZ

Better known as "Jose Fala"

Born on July 31, 1934 and was called by his

Creator to his eternal rest on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the age of 75

In his new life, he now joins his:

First WIFE: †Victoria A. Dela Cruz

PARENTS: †Francisco & †Paulina O. Dela Cruz

PARENTS IN LAW: †Jose C. and †Rita M. Aldan

SISTERS / BROTHER IN-LAWS:

†Francisca O. & †Lucio C. Aldan

†Carina Dlc. & †Antonio C. Aldan

†Al Hockett, †Alfred M. Aldan,

†Maximo DlGuerrero, †Joaquin Villagomez

†Jerry S. Koshiro

SON IN-LAW:

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: ROSALIE F. DELA CRUZ

Children: Josefa A. Dela Cruz, Children & Grandchildren

Martin A. and Gina A. Dela Cruz & Children

Lolita A Dela Cruz, Daughter & Grandsons

Francisco A. and Presilla B. Dela Cruz, Children & Grandchildren

Ramona A. Dela Cruz, Children & Grandchildren

Antonette Dlc. and Thomas Joab, Children & Grandchildren

Joseph A. and Jennifer H. Dela Cruz and Children

Joseph Junior F. Dela Cruz

Joneva F. Dela Cruz

Denrose F. and Michelle Dela Cruz & Daughter

Apple F. Dela Cruz

Reared Children: Lourdes Aguilar (Marylou & Dominique)

Cathy (Chiki) Florita

Edmar and Chris Monzanilla & children

Brothers:

Fermin Dela Cruz

Jesus Dela Cruz

John Dela Cruz

†Jose is also additionally survived by numerous relatives & friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm.

On Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 8:00am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel in Beach Road Garapan to St. Jude Church. Responso Service will be at 8:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment service will be at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you & Please join us in prayers.

THE FAMILY

NEW YORK (AP)—Few ads in the entire history of advertising have been riper for parody than Nike's new Tiger Woods commercial, with the voice of the golfer's late father seemingly admonishing him for his transgressions.

And so within hours of its first airing, this unusual (and, some say, totally creepy) ad had spawned a new generation of Dad-talking-to-Tiger videos.

And a more serious question, too: Even by the standards of edgy advertising, did both Nike and Tiger cross a line?

To be sure, Nike is relishing the attention. That is, after all, what advertising is about: Cutting through the clutter.

And Nike has a history not only of daring ads, but of notable ones featuring Woods. Its 1996 introductory "Hello World" ad noted he would still be banned from certain clubs due to the color of his skin, and asked, "Are you ready for me?"

But this is a different Tiger—the post-scandal Tiger, the one in the midst of a carefully crafted comeback from the sordid revelations of his multiple affairs. The Nike ad shocked some both for its use of a dead man's voice—out of context—and, perhaps more, its use of Tiger's infidelity to, well, sell merchandise.

"It's a new genre of marketing: I'm sorry—ka-ching!" commented Marian Salzman, advertising analyst and president of Euro RSCG Worldwide public relations. Wrote Salon.com: "It's not moving. It's just sickening."

Others, though, called it potentially groundbreaking—and not just in the way it brought immediate buzz to both Nike and Woods as he competes in the Masters, his first tournament since the scandal broke late last year.

"They've actually called an athlete to task—and one that they're endors-

Parodies proliferate of Woods ad with Dad's voice

In this image provided by Nike Inc., Tiger Woods appears in a Nike commercial to air starting Wednesday, April 7, 2010 on ESPN.

AP



ing," said Rick Burton, sports marketing professor at Syracuse University. "They're using advertising as a vehicle to question his motives and behavior."

As for Tiger himself, he told a news conference that the ad was "very apropos. I think that's what my dad would say. It's amazing how my dad can speak to me in different ways, even when he's long gone."

The ad aired Wednesday and Thursday on ESPN and the Golf Channel and is not scheduled to air again—at least in its current form.

Woods stands expressionless, his only movement a few blinks. The ad is in black and white, adding to the sense of starkness.

Then comes the voice of Earl Woods, who died in 2006. (Nike confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday that the audio was from a 2004 documentary. In that documentary, the elder Woods

compared his parenting style with that of his wife.)

"Tiger, I am more prone to be inquisitive, to promote discussion," the father says. "I want to find out what your thinking was. I want to find out what your feelings are, and did you learn anything." It ends with the trademark Nike swoosh.

Taiwan singer conjures up Susan Boyle comparisons

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—As a younger man, Taiwan's Lin Yu-chun sang for hours on end, trying to get his mind off the sneers he endured because of his portly figure.

The round-faced soprano with the bowl haircut never imagined his voice would one day transform him into an international sensation.

But now, he is being compared to Britain's Susan Boyle, the plain-looking 48-year-old who shot to stardom after singing "I Dreamed a Dream" on "Britain's Got Talent."

Lin's Whitney Houston-like rendition of "I Will Always Love You" on Taiwan's "Avenue to Stardom" talent show last Friday has already racked up some 1.3 million views on YouTube, and the number is climbing fast.

For the 24-year-old with the disparaging nickname of "Little Fatty," the event has been a life-changer.

"I now have more confidence in pursuing a singing career," Lin told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "You don't have to be a good-looking man or woman to succeed. Just be yourself and try your best."

Lin said he had long suffered from a lack of self-confidence because of his plain looks and rotund figure.

"Being fat draws a lot of mockery in our society," he said.

To cope with the pain of his exclusion, he locked himself in his room and sang along with the songs of Celine Dion and Mariah Carey.

But the artist who really grabbed



In this undated photo released on April 8, 2010, by Talented Star training school, music shop employee and singer Lin Yu-chun poses in Taipei, Taiwan. Videos of 24-year-old Lin singing Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You" on the Taiwanese talent show "One Million Star" have exploded online.

him was Houston—particularly the song "I Will Always Love You," from the soundtrack to the 1992 film "The Bodyguard."

"I played it again and again even though my parents couldn't stand it any more and asked me to stop," Lin said.

Lin has had a bumpy start to stardom.

After graduating from college last year, he failed to make much of an impression on another Taiwanese talent show, where judges criticized both his looks and his high-pitched voice.

TV's 'Ugly Betty' broke ground for Latinos, gays

MIAMI (AP)—During its four-year run, television's "Ugly Betty" skewered the New York fashion world, nabbing celebrity cameos from the likes of Lindsay Lohan, Shakira and Isaac Mizrahi.

It turned America Ferrera, who played the plucky but style-challenged Betty Suarez, into a household name. And it landed a prestigious Peabody Award.

As the credits roll on the wacky dramedy's last episode April 14, Latino, gay rights groups and fans are lamenting more than the loss of Betty's cringe-inducing outfits and the melodrama of the Meade family—owners of the show's fictional fashion magazine Mode. The hourlong show was also among the rare network programs to tackle such controversial issues as gay teens, body image and illegal immigration.

The show contrasted Betty's career at Mode with her working class, Mexican immigrant family, including her

widower father Ignacio, her impulsive older sister Hilda and her theater-loving, fashion expert nephew Justin, who came out as gay in this last season.

"Having this family at the center of the show made it normal to watch a Latino family in a non-stereotypical way," Ferrera said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Lisa Navarrete, a vice president for the National Council of La Raza, said the show's absence will leave a void.

"You don't have a lot of Latino-themed shows on TV, so when we lose 'Ugly Betty,' we will have a major loss," she said.

Navarrete noted that George Lopez paved the way for "Ugly Betty" in 2002 with his Bill Cosby styled family sitcom, but she called "Ugly Betty" edgier.

The brainchild of producer Silvio Horta and actress and producer Salma Hayek, "Ugly Betty" was based on a

Colombian telenovela that became so popular it was copied in Mexico, Germany and elsewhere.

The English version also proved a global hit. More than 10,000 Facebook fans from as far as England, the Philippines and Bangladesh have begged ABC not to cancel the show since it announced this season would be its last, following a decline in the show's ratings an ever-changing schedule.

Shortly after the height of the immigration debate, the show followed Betty's father as he confessed to his American-born children that he had been living in the U.S. illegally.

Even with comedic turns, "the plot line illustrated the complexity of the lives of many undocumented immigrants who are otherwise integrated into American life," Navarrete said. "You have a lot of families like 'Ugly Betty' where you have U.S. born children whose parents have undocumented status."

More groundbreaking was the show's handling of its gay and transgender characters, said Jarett Barrios, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Although initially played for laughs, "Ugly Betty" provided a sympathetic portrait of Meade scion Alex who transforms into the stunning Alexis. And it followed the bumpy love life of Mode's gay fashion assistant Marc St. James.

But most of all, it showed how Betty's family accepted without fanfare Justin's love for musicals and the latest fashion trends, a tacit acceptance of his sexuality. Then, in this final season, Justin got his first kiss with a boy.

Barrios said too often gay characters are depicted on TV as adults without families.



In this publicity image released by ABC, America Ferrera, left, and Michael Urie are shown in a scene from the series finale of "Ugly Betty," airing Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

Smith estate appeals ruling on oil fortune

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Lawyers for the estate of Anna Nicole Smith have appealed a ruling that gave her none of her late billionaire husband's fortune. The appeal filed Thursday seeks a full review by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and con-

Ex-'Survivor' producer barred from leaving Mexico

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—The producer of "Pimp My Ride" and formerly of "Survivor" is barred from leaving Mexico while authorities investigate the death of his wife whose body was found in the sewer of a Cancun resort, a state official said Friday.

Bruce Beresford-Redman was released from custody early Friday because investigators don't have enough evidence to hold him, said Francisco Alor, the attorney general in Quintana Roo state, where Cancun is located. The 38-year-old producer was handed to U.S. Consulate officials and taken to an undisclosed hotel.

But Alor said Beresford-Redman remains a suspect.

"He can't leave the country," the state attorney general said. "We still can't say that he is responsible, but that's the starting point of the investigation because we have witnesses who say he was the last to see her alive."

The producer insisted to police that he last saw his wife, Monica Beresford-Redman, on Monday morning, when he says she left the exclusive Moon Palace resort to go shopping and never returned, Alor said. But witnesses said they saw the couple arguing on Monday evening, he said.

Police detained the producer Thursday after finding his wife's body in a sewer at the Moon Palace resort, where the family was on vacation.

Her body had scratches on the



In this Feb. 28, 2006 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith leaves the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

tinues a case that has outlived both parties.

In a March 19 ruling, a panel of the court sided with a Houston jury that decided in 2001 that Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall never intended to leave any of his \$1.6 billion estate to Smith.

Marshall's will gave most of his estate to his son, E. Pierce Marshall.

David Margulies, a spokesman for the Marshall family, said Friday the family will continue to defend its case with the "same vigor and resolve it has in the past as this case hopefully nears an end."

Smith and Marshall married in 1994. He was 89 and she 26.

Smith had argued that her elderly husband had promised

to leave her more than \$300 million.

The case previously reached the U.S. Supreme Court, and attorneys for Smith's estate vow to again appeal to the nation's high court if necessary.

Smith died of a drug overdose in 2008 and named her 3-year-old daughter Dannielynn as heir.

The former Playboy model's ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead and attorney Howard K. Stern were placed in charge of her estate. Smith initially challenged the will in Houston probate court and lost.

However, a bankruptcy court in Los Angeles awarded her \$474.75 million, which was later reduced to \$89.5 million.

The legal dispute has centered on which court ruling to follow.

Reality TV producer and wife always 'on the go'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bruce Beresford-Redman, the veteran reality TV producer at the center of an investigation into the death of his restaurateur wife, has been described as a nice guy who was frequently away from his family while working on such series as CBS' long-running "Survivor" and ABC's zany driving game show "Crash Course."

Monica Beresford-Redman's body was found Thursday in a sewer at the swanky Moon Palace resort where the family was staying in Cancun, Mexico, according to Bello Rodriguez, the outgoing attorney general for Quintana Roo state, where Can-

cun is located. Rodriguez said a security guard saw the couple arguing Monday night and said Bruce Beresford-Redman tried to hit his wife.

Francisco Alor, the incoming attorney general, said the 38-year-old co-creator of MTV's "Pimp My Ride" was being detained as a "person of interest" and the initial focus of the investigation based on the couple's alleged turbulent relationship. He added that several people in the hotel heard the couple arguing Monday night.

Back home, Ratana Neeth, a nanny for a family in the affluent Palos Verdes, Calif., neigh-

borhood where the couple and their two children lived, painted a picture of a husband and wife that always seemed "on the go." Neeth, who knew them from children's birthday parties and playdates, said the couple "didn't smile a lot" and they "weren't lovey-dovey."

"She was always nice," said Neeth, "but she always looked tired because she worked nights."

Friends who were gathered Thursday at the lively Brazilian-themed Zabumba bikini bar and restaurant that Monica owned and managed in West Los Angeles were still in disbelief that she was really gone.

Chile nixes renaming int'l airport for poet Neruda

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Congress rejected a proposal to rename the country's main airport after Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda, famous worldwide for his poetry and a hero of the Chilean left for his political leanings.

Center-left lawmakers had sought the change, arguing that Neruda's internationally renowned name would boost tourism to the South American nation.

But members of President Sebastian Pinera's ruling conservative coalition, which controls the lower house of congress, banded together to vote down the measure 44-38 late Thursday.

They said the Santiago airport's current moniker honoring aviation pioneer and air force founder Arturo Merino Benitez is more appropriate.

Neruda was a senator and presidential candidate for Chile's Communist Party and had close

ties to socialist President Salvador Allende, who was toppled in a September 1973 coup.

When Neruda died of natural causes shortly afterward, his funeral was a catalyst for the first major protests against dictator Augusto Pinochet.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1971 in recognition of works such as "Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair" and the epic "Canto General."

Man's refusal to file returns taxes couple's relationship

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: It has been eight years since my boyfriend, "Grant," filed taxes. His refusal to file a tax return has caused many arguments between us.

Grant's parents got wind of it one year and gave him money to pay them off, but he spent the money to pay other bills. Grant is an only child. His parents often bail him out financially. This has begun to gnaw at me because I'm at the point where I'm thinking about marriage and children. I know we can't be married until he takes care of his tax problem.

How serious is it not paying your taxes? Is this something I should just ignore? I couldn't pay the bills if he was put in jail. Will this 30-something only child ever grow up?

APRIL 15-PHOBIC

DEAR PHOBIC: According to the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA), a professional society of federally licensed tax practitioners, failing to file your taxes is worse than failing to pay. By not filing, your boyfriend runs the risk of paying not only the taxes he owes, but penalties and interest as well.

You need to tell Grant he can get help from an enrolled agent to guide him through the process of filing back returns and, if necessary, setting up a payment schedule with the IRS. He can locate one in his area by accessing the NAEA Web site, www.naea.org. If he doesn't have access to a computer, his local library can help him.

More than 10,000 enrolled agents are listed. Because they are the only tax specialists licensed to practice before the IRS, Grant can be assured the matter will be handled confidentially in the most competent way.

You should not ignore Grant's behavior. Protect yourself tax-wise by filing your return separately from his until the matter is settled. Should you decide to marry him, file as "married, filing separately" so your incomes (at least in the eyes of the IRS) won't be viewed as one entity. Use the same enrolled agent or find one for yourself.

Do check out this reputable organization. Don't wait for your boyfriend to grow up to do it because at the rate he's maturing, that may never happen.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son "Matt" is a junior in high school. He says he's not attending the junior/senior prom this year because he doesn't have anyone special to go with.

I tried to explain that his date doesn't have to be a "girlfriend," that she can just be a friend. I told him he could also go with a bunch of guys who don't have dates.

I know later on in life Matt will regret not having gone to the prom, and I'm sad about his decision. Should I make him go even though he doesn't want to, hoping he has a good time when he gets there? Or should I drop the issue and respect his wishes even if he's making a mistake? Matt is 17 and not particularly social, and I think that's why he doesn't want to go.

ENCOURAGING MOM

DEAR MOM: There is a fine line that separates an encouraging mom from a mom who is overbearing. Your son is only a junior, and will have a chance next year to change his mind and attend the prom as a senior. Frankly, I have never had a man write me or tell me that looking back on his high school years he regretted missing a dance. A game, perhaps—but never a dance.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Country singer Shaver acquitted in Texas shooting

WACO, Texas (AP)—Texas country singer-songwriter Billy Joe Shaver has been acquitted of aggravated assault in the 2007 shooting of a man in a bar parking lot. Jurors took two hours Friday to decide. Shaver had testified that he acted in self-defense when he shot Billy Coker outside Waco on March 31, 2007. But prosecutors said no other witnesses had described Coker as "violent or mean." Shaver lives in Waco. He rose to country music stardom in the 1970s. Shaver recorded more than 20 albums and wrote "Georgia on a Fast Train" and "I'm Just an Old Chunk of Coal (But I'm Gonna Be a Diamond Someday)." He

helped launch country's outlaw movement, which defined the careers of singers Willie Nelson and the late Waylon Jennings. Waco is about 100 miles south of Dallas.

NC prosecutor: Nelson band member charges pending

KENANSVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina prosecutor says he still plans to prosecute six members of guitarist and singer Willie Nelson's band on drug and alcohol charges. Duplin County District Attorney Dewey Hudson said at a press conference Friday that substances seized from the band's bus in January are being tested at the state crime lab in Raleigh. Nelson was not on the bus at the

time. Hudson has faced criticism for pursuing the case, but says he has to show that famous people are not above the law. The six members of Nelson's band were charged with possession of either marijuana or untaxed liquor before a concert that Nelson canceled because his hand hurt too badly to play. Nelson's publicist has declined to comment on the case.

Pa. celebrity boxing promoter accused of fight fix

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A celebrity boxing promoter has been charged with fixing fights and not having a license when he staged a bout between "The Partridge Family" television star Danny Bonaduce and a co-

median from the Howard Stern show. Damon Feldman, who operates the Celebrity Boxing Federation, is charged with six counts of staging competitions without holding a promoter's license from the State Athletic Commission and six counts of rigging fights at those events during a 16-month period that ended in December, state Attorney General Tom Corbett said. "The only thing that appears to be real about any of these events is the money that went into Mr. Feldman's pocket and the media attention that he received," Corbett said Friday. Feldman's events, held in the Philadelphia area, included a highly publicized 2008 fight between Bonaduce and Stern show comic the Reverend Bob Levy.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



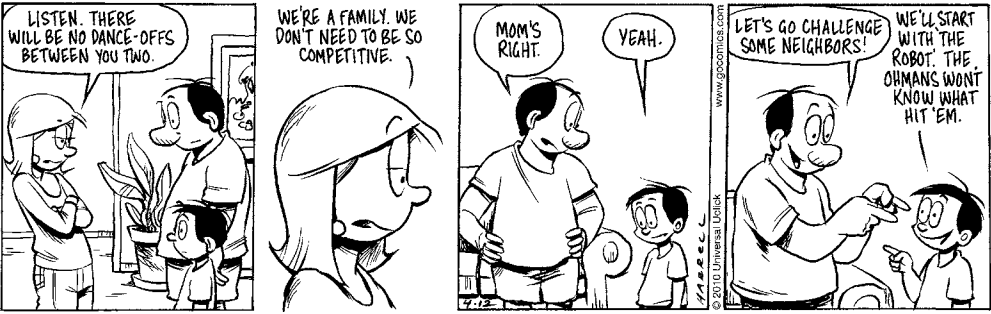
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



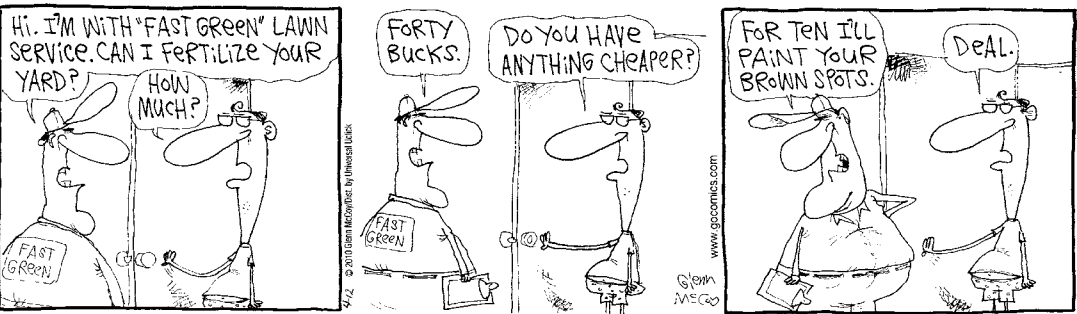
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Often-dunked cookie

5 Away from NNW

8 Dog's feet

12 Not paraphrased

14 Last write-up

15 Hole

16 Depend (on)

17 Charged particle

18 "Shake, — and Roll"

20 Witch trial town

23 Trigonometric function

24 Persia, today

25 New Zealand bird, e.g.

28 Poorly lit

29 Poker table pronunciation

30 Joan of —

32 Suitable

DOWN

1 Eggs

2 Agent, for short

3 Before "Tonight Show"

4 "Tonight Show" host, briefly

5 Dazzle

6 Knight's address

7 Retired

8 "Anything Goes" composer

9 Help in wrongdoing

10 Volition

11 Eyelid problem

13 Fermi's bit

19 Working without —

20 Comedian

21 Operatic solo

22 Genie's home

23 Animal track

25 Electrical strength

26 Harvard rival

27 Picture of health?

29 New Rochelle college

31 Letterman's network

33 Plump

34 Under-surface

36 Scoff

37 Bird's home

38 Reverberate

39 Gunky stuff

40 Agile

43 Chum

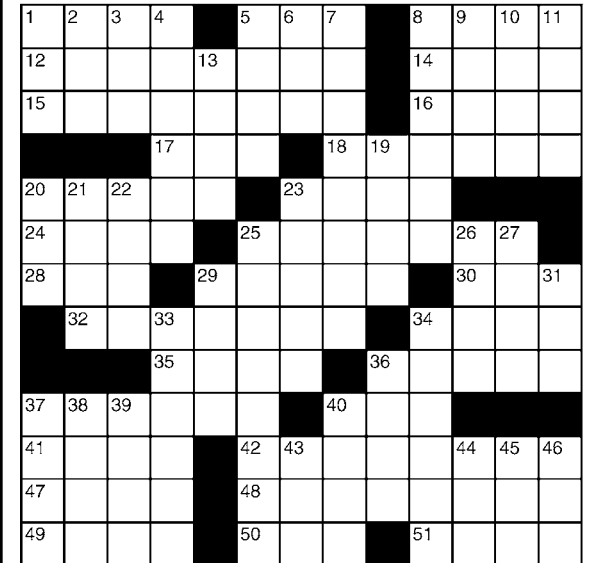
44 Call — day

45 X rating?

46 Sullivan and McMahon

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Claire Danes, 31; Shannen Doherty, 39; David Letterman, 63; Ed O'Neill, 64

Happy Birthday: Uncertainty will be the enemy. Challenges may be daunting but, once you get started, you won't look back or feel the least bit like the underdog. You have more to offer than you realize and it won't take long for others to recognize exactly what you bring to the table. Your numbers are 2, 5, 16, 23, 28, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Calm down and think matters through. Trouble with a youngster or someone who doesn't see things the same way you do will cause stress and worry. Before giving ultimatums, try using a little reverse psychology. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Help the people around you. With your kind gestures, you can establish your position and secure your future. Romantic plans will help you enhance a relationship that means a lot to you. Don't get angry at incompetence; see it as your chance to take over. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Feeling unsure of your position or the way someone feels about you will leave you guessing what to do next. Don't think that you have to make a move because you have been given an ultimatum, especially if it involved money. If something doesn't feel right, wait for something better to come along. ★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't feel pressured by anyone who has the jitters and wants to move quickly on something you aren't sure about. An opportunity is available

that can lead to a better position and a chance to explore and experiment with new acquaintances, lifestyles and activities. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't waste time on someone who is unable to relate to your vision. Move on and you will meet people who get what you are doing and want to take part. Your strengths will be undeniable. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more people you talk to, the better positioned you will be when the time comes to make your move. A money deal or settlement may have a surprise ending. Keep your emotions out of the equation. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get hung up on what everyone else is doing. You cannot give in to someone who isn't willing to meet you halfway. Avoid confrontations with people you live with or near. Don't be surprised by a broken commitment. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more distance you put between yourself and the pressure being put on you, the better the outcome. Don't fear making last-minute changes. Take part in an activity that gets you motivated and moving. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't waste time on nonsense when you should be striving to make your personal and professional life stable. Neglecting to do what's right or being indulgent will not bode well with someone you have to report to. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make some good moves regarding investments, property, renovations, settle-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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ments and vocational changes. You will surprise someone with your ability to take on burdens and find solutions. Love and romance are in a high cycle. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let money matters upset you. A lover or good friend will take advantage of you and your connections. Volunteer your services, skills or knowledge to someone that needs to hear the truth and take action. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel caught in the middle of someone else's affairs. Meddling will lead to an irreversible situation. Your tendency to overreact will result in personal uncertainty. An unexpected move will lead to a feud. ★★★

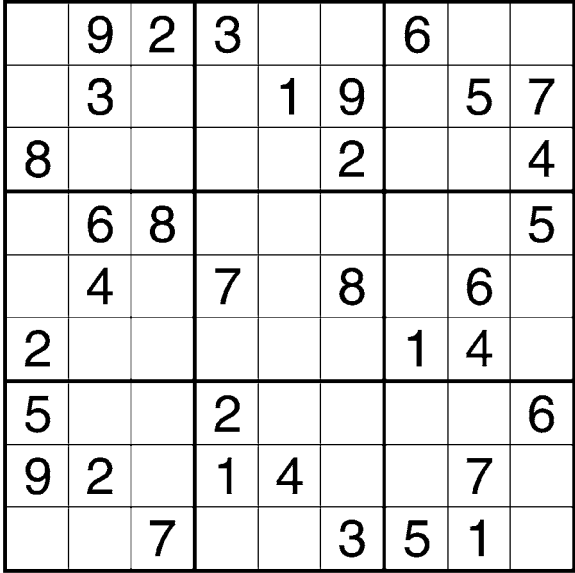
Birthday Baby: You are an opportunist, practical but always ready to act fast. You aren't afraid to use your physical attributes to get what you want. You are outspoken but charming.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

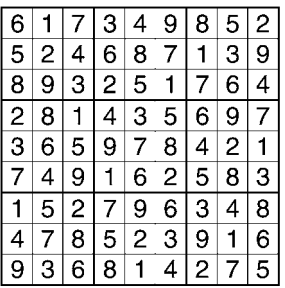


Difficulty Level ★ 4/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/10

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALL KIDS WANT A PUPPY Solution: 8 letters



© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 4/12
Airedale, Bark, Beagle, Bichon, Boxer, Breeds, Brown, Bulldog, Chihuahua, Chowchow, Coat, Color, Cute, Dane, Dish, Fawn, Gender, Gift, Golden Retriever, Great Pyrenees, Groom, House, Husky, Labrador, Maltese, Mastiff, Pets, Pomeranian, Poodle, Races, Schnauzer, Scottie, ShihTzu, Size, Teething, Terrier, Toys, Weimaraner, Westie, Wins, Yorkie
Last Saturday's Answer: Rubbing
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WHATZIT Solution: Last-ditch stand


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Saipan Tribune




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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: PSS-2010-021 **Application & Employment Type:** Non-Certified

Position Title: PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST I-IV (Contracts/Purchase Orders)

Pay Level/Step: 24/26/28/30 **Per Annum Salary:** \$16,858.38-\$22,576.96

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Location: PSS – Procurement & Supply Office

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*** Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX(0) MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT www.psshro@cnmipss.org ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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DITCH

Find today's solution in this section

The roars start a day early at Augusta



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Lee Westwood kept his cool even as Augusta National thundered with too many cheers to count.

Phil Mickelson made consecutive eagles with three shots. Fred Couples chipped in for eagle ahead of him. Ricky Barnes chipped in for a birdie behind him. Tiger Woods got into the act with three straight birdies to keep his name high on a star-studded leaderboard.

Saturday at the Masters sounded an awful lot like Sunday.

"You couldn't figure out who was doing what because there were roars happening simultaneously throughout the course," Mickelson said. "I thought that it was really a fun day to see the leaderboard change."

Westwood made sure there was no change at the top.

With his best chance ever to win that elusive major, Westwood made only one bogey and finished with a tough par for a 4-under 68 to take a one-shot lead over Mickelson into the final round of a Masters that keeps getting better.

"I think I'm ready," Westwood said.

By the look of the names behind him, he better be.

Westwood, No. 4 in the world and among the best without a major, was at 12-under 204. He will be in the final group with Mickelson, No. 3 in the world and the sentimental favorite at Augusta given his turbulent year at home with his wife and mother battling breast cancer.

Right in front of them will be Woods, No. 1 in the world and playing as though five months of a humiliating sex scandal never happened. He finished with a 3-foot birdie on the last hole for a 2-under 70, putting him at 8-under 208 along with K.J. Choi, who also had a 70.

"I think that's what everybody wants to see," Westwood said. "Everybody has missed Tiger on the golf course the last five or six months, and he's up there. Phil is up there. You've got 4, 3 and 1 in the world. It's a good leaderboard, I think."

The Masters hasn't seen a leaderboard this strong for the final round since Woods and Mickelson—Nos. 1 and 2 in the world—were in the final group in 2001.

Just as exciting as the names were the endless cheers from all corners of the course, for just about everyone but Westwood. Over the final hour, his only birdie was a two-putt from 25 feet on the 15th. Ho-hum.

"The only thing I can control is what I do, where I hit it," Westwood said. "The guys up on the leaderboard there are great players. They are going to do something. You have to expect the unexpected at times."

It got so crazy at one point that in the time it took Westwood to play the 11th hole with a hard-earned par, Mickelson made up four shots on him with an 8-foot eagle putt on the 13th and holing out a wedge on the 14th.

Barnes knocked in his birdie from behind the 13th green, and even more impressive was his 60-foot birdie putt across the 14th green.

The thrills never stopped.

"It was probably one of those great days in golf at a major championship,"



Lee Westwood of England holds up his ball after a birdie putt on the 10th green during the third round of the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., Saturday, April 10, 2010.

AP

Westwood said. "I obviously wasn't privy to the things you have seen, but I was well aware somebody was making a charge, and I figured it was Phil. That's what major championships are about. They're tough ones to win because great players do great things."

Mickelson hasn't looked great all year, the first time since 2003 he has come to Augusta without a victory. Now, he goes after a third green jacket by playing in the final group at a major for the first time since his meltdown at Winged Foot in the 2006 U.S. Open.

His spirits have been lifted in part by having his family—wife Amy and the three kids—with him for the first time since The Players Championship nearly a year ago, right before she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Amy Mickelson has not been to the golf course.

"It's fun having them, just being together," he said. "It's been a fun week."

Fun doesn't even begin to describe Saturday.

The course was not meant to yield so many fireworks—not one shot better than 67—yet the quality of the play was superb. Westwood did his work on the front nine, rolling in a bending birdie putt at the first, hitting a 4-iron just over the bunker to 10 feet on the fourth and slowly starting to pull away.

Then came the cheers and the chaos.

Couples was walking off the 14th tee when he motioned at Mickelson across the 13th fairway to get it going. Lefty obliged with a 7-iron to 8 feet, followed by his eagle from the 14th fairway that produced such volume that Westwood backed off his putt on the 11th.

"It was pretty funny because we were texting a little bit about how low I was going to have to go to catch him and maybe play with him tomorrow," said Couples, who was in the final group when Mickelson won his last Masters in 2006. "For a time, we were both playing pretty well. But then he went eagle-eagle-birdie, and that's a pretty big jump to get going."

"Once again, I just love this place."

For Woods, it was more of a love-hate relationship for most of the round.

He quickly pulled within one shot of the lead with two tough birdies, from 18 feet on the first hole and a curling 35-footer on the third. Few could have guessed it would be the putter that put him behind.

It started with a bad swing and an outburst—"Tiger, you suck!"—from a guy who pledged to keep his temper in check. From the bottom shelf of the green, Woods ran his putt 15 feet by the hole and missed that for his first three-putt bogey of the Masters. He missed a 5-foot par on the seventh hole, then three-putted on the 10th from about 18 feet.

That's all it took for Woods to tumble

seven shots out of the lead. And while he tried to peck away with birdies, Mickelson ahead of him was hammering away at eagles.

Woods two-putted the 13th, hit his approach to 3 feet on the 14th for birdie, then made an 8-foot birdie on the 15th. He was so wild at times that he played the 17th hole from the 15th fairway and almost got away with it until missing a 6-footer for par.

"After struggling just to fight back ... the guys were running away from me there," Woods said. "At one point, I was seven back. So to kind of claw my way back in there where I'm only four back right now, I'm in good shape."

He has never won a major from behind. He had never lost one from in front until Y.E. Yang rallied to beat him in the PGA Championship last summer at Hazeltine.

Asked about his outburst on the sixth hole, Woods said he wasn't aware: "If I did, then I'm sorry."

From the spontaneous cheer he received for the opening tee shot on Thursday, the cheers have become louder throughout the week for Woods. Only on this day, they weren't all for him.

"Those roars are Augusta roars," said 60-year-old Tom Watson, who had a 73 to fall 10 shots behind. "I'm glad they're back."

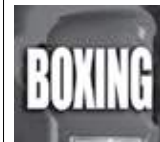
Ian Poulter, tied for the 36-hole lead

with Westwood, shot a 74 and fell six shots behind with Barnes (72) and Hunter Mahan (68). That would seem to be too far behind at any other major.

But at Augusta National?

"We have seen some strange things happen over the years," Mickelson said. "I think tomorrow is going to be another exciting day."

47-year-old Holyfield stops Botha in 8th



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield is using George Foreman's comeback more than 15 years ago as inspiration.

The 47-year-old Holyfield (43-10-2, 28 KOs) knocked out 41-year-old Frans Botha with 2:05 left in the eighth round Saturday night. Holyfield knocked the defending champion down 31 seconds earlier with a right to the chin.

Botha (47-5-3) beat referee Russell Mora's count, but Mora then stopped the fight with the South African backed into a corner.

"I'm going to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world," Holyfield said.

Two judges, Jerry Roth and Glenn Feldman, had Botha ahead 67-66 when the fight was stopped. The other judge, Herb Santee, had it 69-64 for Holyfield.

"I'm happy Botha gave me an opportunity," Holyfield said. "When people talk about you, it's who I fought. I fought the best."

There were only 3,127 people at the Thomas & Mack Center, most rooting for Holyfield in his first fight since Dec. 20, 2008, when he lost a majority decision to Nikolay Valuev.

"George Foreman said, 'It's not about my age,'" Holyfield referred to what the former champ said back in the 1990s. "He became heavyweight champion of the world."

In the second round, Holyfield briefly lost his balance, stumbling into a corner after a right from Botha with 2:04 left.

"(Holyfield has) got the skills. He's got the determination," Botha said. "He landed his shots. He's a true warrior. I didn't feel ashamed losing to a great champion like him."

At the post-fight press conference, it was mentioned Holyfield would like to fight one of the Klitschko brothers, who hold three of the four major heavyweight champions. Wladimir Klitschko holds two titles, while Vitali holds one.

Early on, Botha was warned by the referee twice in the first three rounds for hitting behind the head. Botha also was warned in the first round for a double hit to the head during a clinch.

This was Holyfield's first fight in Las Vegas since 2003, when he lost to James Toney at Mandalay Bay.

Before Saturday, Holyfield was only 10-6 in Las Vegas, including the infamous ear-biting incident against Mike Tyson in 1997, when he won by disqualification.

Spurs put spanner in Nuggets works



DENVER (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs won 104-85 to strip Denver of the Northwest Division lead and threaten the Nuggets' chances of starting the NBA playoffs with home advantage.

Tim Duncan had 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Richard Jefferson and Manu Ginobili each added 15 points for the Spurs, who climbed up to seventh in the Western Conference standings.

Chauncey Billups scored 27 points for Denver, which fell into a tie with Utah for the Division lead and gave up its share of second in the West.

Kenyon Martin was back in the Nuggets starting lineup after missing 18 games because of patellar tendinitis in his left knee.

Celtics 105, Bucks 90

In Milwaukee, Paul Pierce scored 18 of his 24 points in the second half as Boston rested Kevin Garnett and still beat Milwaukee.

After a rough game in Milwaukee last month, this one featured more pushing and shoving late and could be a sign of things to come in a first-round matchup in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Bucks coach Scott Skiles was ejected, Celtics forward Glen Davis squared off with Kurt Thomas, and Bucks rookie Brandon Jennings was inadvertently kicked between the legs in the fourth quarter.

John Salmons overcame his stomach bug to score 21 points for the Bucks.

Mavericks 126, Kings 108

In Sacramento, California, Dirk



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, right, goes up for a shot over Denver Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

Nowitzki scored 39 points to help Dallas rout struggling Sacramento.

The victory, combined with Denver's loss to San Antonio, moved the Mavericks into sole possession of second place in the Western Conference playoff race.

Dallas is one game ahead of Denver with two games remaining for both teams. The Mavericks can finish no worse than the fourth seed.

Jason Kidd had his second triple-double of the season and the 105th of his career, finishing 11 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for Dallas, which has won three straight.

Carl Landry scored 30 points for Sacramento, which has lost nine of 10.

Hawks 105, Wizards 95

In Washington, Atlanta maintained third place in the NBA's Eastern Conference by snapping their road woes and beating Washington.

Jamal Crawford scored 23 of his 28 points in the second half and Joe Johnson added 20 points as the Hawks won their first road game in seven attempts and beat the Wizards for the ninth straight time.

Andray Blatche scored 24 points for Washington.

Bobcats 99, Pistons 95

In Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin hit the go-ahead jump shot with just over a minute left to lift Charlotte over Detroit.

Larry Hughes scored 18 points and Gerald Wallace and Stephen Jackson added 14 apiece for the Bobcats, who kept their slim hopes alive for overtaking Miami for the sixth seed in the

Eastern Conference and thus avoiding a first-round playoff matchup with Orlando.

Ben Gordon scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half for Detroit.

76ers 120, Grizzlies 101

In Memphis, Tennessee, Philadelphia matched a franchise record with 14 3-pointers in the win over Memphis.

Marreese Speights scored 22 points, while Jason Kapono and Andre Iguodala added 15 each as the 76ers snapped a six-game losing streak.

The 76ers were 14 of 26 from 3-point range and shot 57 percent overall.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 23 points.

Clippers 107, Warriors 104

In Los Angeles, the hosts snapped a seven-game losing streak with a tight win over Golden State.

Chris Kaman had 27 points and 10 rebounds and Steve Nowak hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:46 to play as the Clippers rallied from a six-point deficit midway through the fourth quarter.

Rookie Stephen Curry scored 29 points for the Warriors.

Pacers 115, Nets 102

In Indianapolis, Troy Murphy had 25 points and nine rebounds to lead streaking Indiana over New Jersey.

Danny Granger scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half for the Pacers, who won their fourth straight game to continue a late-season surge.

Brook Lopez had 20 points for New Jersey, which is an NBA-worst 12-68.



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—New York pitcher C.C. Sabathia came close to a no-hitter as he

steered the Yankees to a 10-0 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League on Saturday.

Sabathia had not yielded a hit for 7 2-3 innings when his former batterymate Kelly Shoppach got a hit. There was no visible reaction from the exhausted Yankees ace.

Manager Joe Girardi immediately removed Sabathia, who struck out five. The left-hander threw 69 of his 111 pitches for strikes and benefited from some spectacular defensive plays in the field.

Twins 2, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Jason Kubel's two-run homer in the seventh inning was enough for Minnesota to edge Chicago.

Twins starter Scott Baker pitched seven sharp innings, having struggled on opening day. He allowed just one run, striking out three.

Jesse Crain got two outs in the eighth and stranded Chicago's Mark Teahen at second, and Jon Rauch pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his fourth save.

Tigers 4, Indians 2

In Detroit, Jeremy Bonderman gave up one hit in five innings to guide Detroit

Sabathia steers Yankees past Rays

past Cleveland.

Bonderman retired the first 11 he faced, then allowed a run on a wild pitch, single and two walks. He started for the first time at home in nearly two years since having surgery to break up a blood clot in his throwing shoulder.

Magglio Ordonez had a two-run homer for the Tigers.

Angels 4, Athletics 3

In Anaheim, California, Hideki Matsui singled home the winning run with one out in the ninth inning, giving Los Angeles victory over Oakland.

The three-time defending AL West champs tightened up after giving up 10 runs in each of the previous two games.

Bobby Abreu started the winning rally with the Angels' sixth double of the game. A's pitcher Craig Breslow intentionally walked Torii Hunter, then Matsui lined the next pitch just inside the right-field line for his first game-ending hit with the Angels.

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Dana Eveland pitched brilliantly into the eighth inning in his Toronto debut, directing the Blue Jays past Baltimore.

Eveland pitched 7 1-3 scoreless innings, walking only two.

The Blue Jays got two RBIs from No. 9 hitter Jose Molina, while Edwin Encarnacion had two hits and scored twice for Toronto, which has won four straight.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Franklin Gutierrez drove in the go-ahead run to cap a three-run ninth inning that lifted Seattle over Texas.

Rangers closer Frank Francisco blew his second save opportunity in three days, allowing three runs and three hits while retiring only one batter.

Ichiro Suzuki, Ken Griffey Jr. and Gutierrez had consecutive RBI singles in the ninth for Seattle.

Red Sox 8, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jeremy Hermida and Jason Varitek homered on consecutive pitches to help Boston down Kansas City.

Varitek added a second homer and Kevin Youkilis and Dustin Pedroia also went over the fence for the Red Sox, who punished Royals ace Zack Greinke.

Boston starter Josh Beckett, in his

first game since signing a four-year, \$68 million contract extension, allowed three runs in seven innings to beat the Royals for the fifth straight start.

Greinke had a 1-0 lead in the fifth when Hermida hit a leadoff homer, and Varitek then slammed the next pitch into the Royals bullpen. It was the first time Greinke had allowed homers on consecutive pitches.

Cubs 4, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Carlos Zambrano recovered from his horrible opening day start by pitching seven solid innings, and pinch-hitter Jeff Baker hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning for the Chicago Cubs to beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Zambrano (1-1) managed only four outs during the Cubs' 16-5 opening-day drubbing in Atlanta. He held the Reds to six hits, including Brandon Phillips' homer, and struck out nine.

Baker hit his solo shot off left-hander Arthur Rhodes (0-1), Chicago's third homer of the game. Kosuke Fukudome and Alfonso Soriano also connected off Aaron Harang.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

In New York, Willie Harris made a game-ending diving catch to thwart an-

other New York rally, and well-traveled Willy Taveras drove in a career-high four runs in Washington's win.

Taveras singled and tripled in his first start for the Nationals, who signed him to a minor league contract in February after Oakland let him go. The A's had acquired him about a week earlier from Cincinnati, making it three teams in less than a month.

With the Mets loading the bases in the ninth, Harris ran to make a diving grab to end the game, the third time he's done it to the Mets in the last three years.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Yadier Molina hit a three-run homer and Yovani Gallardo struggled in his first outing since signing a big contract extension with Milwaukee in giving up six runs in five innings in St. Louis' easy win.

Jaime Garcia (1-0) was sharp in his debut as the Cardinals' No. 5 starter, giving up a run and four hits in six innings. Colby Rasmus homered and Albert Pujols had a two-run single for the Cardinals.

Gallardo, widely acknowledged as one of MLB's top young pitchers at age 24, signed a \$30.1 million, five-year deal on Thursday that could be worth \$42.5 million over six seasons. But he was roughed up in the second and fifth innings.

Brown’s baseball clinic starts today

The series of clinics that Baseball Confederation of Oceania development officer Ray Brown will be holding on Saipan will begin today.

Today’s clinic will run from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield and will be for Junior League players. Brown’s complete schedule of clinics on Saipan are as follows: April 12 to 17 sessions for Junior League, April 19 to 24 for Senior League , and April

26 to 30 for Big League. All sessions will run from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Brown is also scheduled to hold umpire and coaches clinic and will travel to Tinian next month for similar seminars.

The former San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners scout arrived on Saipan yesterday for a month-long stay in the Commonwealth.

For more information about the clinic, contact Saipan Major League’s Rose Igitol at 287-1129 *(SML)*

SURVIVORS

From Page 28

lowed by Ol’Aces (6-1).

It was a come-from-behind win for Survivors, who trailed, 2-0, after three complete innings. Joseph Borja and Jesus Mafnas scored for the Red Sox at the top of the second inning, before Survivors shut them out in the last six innings.

A Nick Jones Jr. single drove Jeff Lizama home at the bottom of the third and gave Survivors’ their first run. Survivors evened

up the game in the fifth inning on A.G. Roppul’s RBI single.

Fielders 10, TSL A’s 0

In the other Junior League game, the Fielders shut out the TSLA’s, 10-0.

The win was third in six games for the Fielders, who took the victory after only four and a half innings. James Aldan pitched in no relief for the Fielders, had four strikeouts, allowed only three hits, walked two, and made only two errors.

The Fielders led by only three,

STAAL

From Page 28

The first woman out of the water in the 2.5K race was SSC’s Amanda Johnson, who logged 42:45. SSC’s first male finisher was Lester Lapuz, who completed the long course in 41:44.

Other finishers in the 2.5K course were Grace Kimball (44:44), Marvin Lee (51:34), Thomas Lee (59:04), Albert Lee (1:00:16), Keanna Villagomez (44:52), Michael Moran (42:51), Junior Pamaran

3-0, after two and a half innings before they scored in succession in the third inning, making six runs to pad the lead, 9-0.

TSLA’s had their best chance to score at the top of the third when Roger Renguul reached third base and Quinson Blas at second with two outs. However, Keone Guerrero flied out to center field for the third out. In the last two innings, the farthest the A’s could get was on second base.

Senior League Fielders 9, Ol’Aces 6

In the first match in the Senior

(44:46), Dooyong Lee (57:58), Mark Sawyer (51:34), and Jim Arenovski (1:02:36).

In the 1.3K race, which had swimmers doing only one lap of the course, 12-year-old Andrew Kimball was the first overall finisher at 20:44, besting 11 other participants. He won the boys’ 11 to 12 division, beating SSC teammate Bryce Daly (23:25) and Tsunami Saipan’s Takumi Sugie (26:04).

In the girls’ division, Tsunami Saipan’s Angel Marie Tan was first out of the wa-

ter at 21:10. She was entered in the 11 to 12 age group and defeated teammate Angel De Jesus (26:30).

Other finishers in the 1.3K event were Keiko Okamura (26:41), Vener Urena (22:25), Michael Villagomez (23:01), Ty Izuka (34:57), Suzy Kindel (27:02), Manny Sitchon (30:36), and Stan Good (35:30).

Yesterday’s ocean swim started with the 600m race with Lukas Kang finishing ahead of four other participants. Kang completed the shortest race of the day in

17:09. In second place was Ryuto Yanai (17:10), Mark Maestro (18:56), Lennosuke Suzuki (20:49), and Taiga Sato (21:55).

Next up for the day was the 1K swim with Monica Kang and Kaito Yanai winning the girls and boys divisions, respectively. Kang posted 23:28 to beat Julie Conner (23:40), while Kaito timed in at 15:31, finishing ahead of Ryosei Toda (15:40), Kento Akimaru (16:15), Hiroto Yanai (16:49), Kosei Toda (17:38), and Yuuki Nishida (23:33).

Lions 13, D-9ers 2

In the second game in the Senior League, the Lions crushed the D-9ers, 13-2.

The Lions defense allowed the D-9ers to score only in the fourth inning, giving the former their sixth win in eight games. The D-9ers remained winless after seven matches.

Zachary Aldan put the D-9ers into the scoreboard, making it home on a fielder’s choice. Peter Lieto also reached home plate on a Brandon Babauta sacrifice fly.

Aldan and Babauta’s run

moved the D-9ers within two, 2-4, after four complete innings, but the Lions widened the gap with nine runs in the last two innings against the D-9ers’ none.

Left fielder Arhtur Jebehn led the Lions with three runs, built on a 4-for-4 performance at bat. He made one double and one triple. Short-stop Richard Dela Cruz was also perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 and tallied three runs. Ricardo Dela Cruz had a solo homer and was 3-for-4 at bat.

IGUEL

From Page 28

others in the list of players who have earned one triple so far in the season.

In the home run category, no player has yet to make more than one round tripper. Only Tenorio and Ol’Aces’ Nokki

Saralu homered in the season.

In the pitching race, Jones is alone on top with his .041 ERA. The D-9ers pitcher pitched in 17 innings, gave up nine runs, allowed eight hits, and had only one error.

The Fielders’ Anthony Tenorio and Ionis Rasa are in second and third place, respectively, with their 1.00 and 1.17 ERA. Antho-

ny Tenorio pitched seven innings, gave up four runs, allowed three hits, and had only one run. Rasa pitched in 12 innings, committed two errors and gave up only two runs and 16 hits.

Completing the Top 10 are Ol’Aces’ Jimmy Brel (1.58 ERA), Falcons’ Joshua Jones (1.78)), Fielders’ Tom Agulto (1.83), D-9ers’ Clyde Sablan

(2.50), Falcons’ Anthony Sablan (4.00), and Ol’Aces’ Eli Aughenbaugh (4.94).

In the strikeouts race, Fal-

cons’ Joshua Jones is on top with his 35 strikeouts, followed by Ol’Aces’ Jimmy Brel (21), D-9ers’ Dave Jones (19), Agulto

(14), Aughenbaugh (13), D-9ers Jared Camacho (8) and David Camacho (7), and Fielders’ Tenorio (7).

SAIPAN

From Page 28

champion Micronesia Brokers, Inc., 98-86. It was Mobil’s sixth straight win, while MBI dropped to an 8-2 mark and lost the top spot to World Resort.

Mobil had a jackrabbit start with Manolo Manalo and Jun Estolas hitting eight points apiece in the first period and giving the team a 30-22 lead. Manalo and Estolas were still on target in the second quarter, increasing the lead to 54-40 at the break.

MBI never recovered from thereon, as it had only Ivan De Vero consistently scoring for the defending champion. Noel David had 14, but was held to only two points in the second half and R.J. Nonato also tallied 14, but his points came when the game was already decided.

World Resort 102, PIC 91

World Resort/Advance improved to a 9-2 record and grabbed the No. 1 spot in the team standings after outclassing Pacific Islands Club on Saturday, 102-91.

World Resort foiled PIC’s repeated comeback bids to notch its ninth win. Darwin Barbo and Won Joo Jung tried to bring PIC back in the fourth canto after World Resort led at the end of the third, 73-64. However, they fell short and PIC badly missed gunner Ryan Sanciango, who

had already left the island.

PIC and World Resort had a close fight in the first period with the latter ahead by only a deuce, 20-18, before the new league leader broke away in the second canto and took a double-digit lead, 50-40.

McGraw-Hill 103, Shirley’s 96

McGraw-Hill claimed its fourth win in nine games after beating Shirley’s, 103-96.

McGraw-Hill drew big games from Peter Mendiola and Walter Mendez, who

logged 28 and 24 points, respectively against the depleted Shirley’s crew. The host played with only six players.

Shirley’s started the game with only five players and still led in the first half, 48-40, before McGraw-Hill made a move in the second half.

Mendiola fired 10 markers in the third, swinging the lead to McGraw-Hill, 70-66, entering the final canto. Shirley’s had only two players scoring in the third period, while Mendiola drew help from four teammates.

Mendez picked up where Mendiola left off in the fourth canto, hitting two triples and scoring 13 markers to preserve the win.

FRIDAY First Game

SGH/Docomo 104 – Villa-

crusis 21, Sablan 20, Maliwan-ag 20, Lee 19, Sison 10, Bustillo 4, McCale 2.

AON 87 – Tamayo 26, De Dios 20, De Guzman 16, Abuan 7, Catalla 6, Pantola 4, Delos Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-21, 49-40, 74-65, 104-87.

Second Game

Mobil 98 –Estolas 24, Manalo 21, Ajoste 17, Ruluked 11, Jose 9, Galzote 8, Demapan 6, Deocares 2.

MBI 86 – De Vero 33, David 14, Nonato 14, Trajano 10, Viola 6, Barbo 5, Achas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 30-22, 54-40, 78-60, 98-86.

SATURDAY First Game

McGraw-Hill 103 – Mendiola 28, Mendez 24, Diaz 15, Buniag 13, Cabrera 11, Matson 8, Villagomez 2, Guerrero 2.

Shirley’s 96 – Peredo 31, Pablo 19, Guiab 15, Sedillo 15, Laxa 9, Nicdao 7.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 40-48, 70-66, 103-96.

Second Game

World Resort/Advance 102 – Olaitaman 23, Abuel 17, Ritual 17, Vinas 16, Tabamo 15, Navarro 9, Espiritu 4.

PIC 91 – Barbo 30, Woon 18, James 15, Yabut 11, Williams 10, Baculod 5, Sublemente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 50-40, 73-64, 103-91.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	30	.625	—
Toronto	38	41	.481	11 1/2
New York	28	51	.354	21 1/2
Philadelphia	27	53	.338	23
New Jersey	12	68	.150	38

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	56	23	.709	—
x-Atlanta	51	29	.638	5 1/2
x-Miami	44	35	.557	12
x-Charlotte	43	37	.538	13 1/2
Washington	25	55	.313	31 1/2

Central Division

z-Cleveland	61	19	.763	—
x-Milwaukee	45	35	.563	16
Chicago	38	41	.481	22 1/2
Indiana	32	48	.400	29
Detroit	26	54	.325	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-Dallas	53	27	.663	—
x-San Antonio	49	31	.613	4
Houston	41	38	.519	11 1/2
Memphis	40	40	.500	13
New Orleans	35	45	.438	18

Northwest Division

x-Denver	52	28	.650	—
x-Utah	52	28	.650	—
x-Oklahoma City	49	30	.620	2 1/2
x-Portland	48	31	.608	3 1/2
Minnesota	15	64	.190	36 1/2

Pacific Division

z-L.A. Lakers	56	23	.709	—
x-Phoenix	51	28	.646	5
L.A. Clippers	28	52	.350	28 1/2
Sacramento	25	55	.313	31 1/2
Golden State	24	55	.304	32

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Yesterday’s Games

Charlotte 99, Detroit 95
Indiana 115, New Jersey 102
Atlanta 105, Washington 95
Philadelphia 120, Memphis 101
Boston 105, Milwaukee 90
San Antonio 104, Denver 85
Dallas 126, Sacramento 108
L.A. Clippers 107, Golden State 104

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	4	1	.800	—
New York	3	2	.600	1
Tampa Bay	3	2	.600	1
Boston	2	3	.400	2
Baltimore	1	4	.200	3

Central Division

Minnesota	5	1	.833	—
Detroit	4	1	.800	1/2
Cleveland	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Kansas City	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Chicago	1	4	.200	3 1/2

West Division

Oakland	4	2	.667	—
Texas	2	3	.400	1 1/2
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	2
Seattle	2	4	.333	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	3	1	.750	—
Atlanta	2	2	.500	1
Florida	2	2	.500	1
New York	2	2	.500	1
Washington	1	3	.250	2

Central Division

St. Louis	3	1	.750	—
Cincinnati	2	2	.500	1
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1
Pittsburgh	2	2	.500	1
Chicago	1	3	.250	2
Houston	0	4	.000	3

West Division

San Francisco	4	0	1.000	—
Arizona	3	1	.750	1
Colorado	2	2	.500	2
Los Angeles	2	2	.500	2
San Diego	1	3	.250	3

Yesterday’s Games

Detroit 4, Cleveland 2
Minnesota 2, Chicago White Sox 1
N.Y. Yankees 10, Tampa Bay 0
Seattle 4, Texas 3
Toronto 3, Baltimore 0
Boston 8, Kansas City 3
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 3

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Scores

Saturday from the U.S. Masters at the 7,435-yard, par-72 Augusta National Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

(a-amateur)

Lee Westwood	67-69-68—204
Phil Mickelson	67-71-67—205
K.J. Choi	67-71-70—208
Tiger Woods	68-70-70—208
Fred Couples	66-75-68—209
Hunter Mahan	71-71-68—210
Ricky Barnes	68-70-72—210
Ian Poulter	68-68-74—210
Y.E. Yang	67-72-72—211
Anthony Kim	68-70-73—211
Jerry Kelly	72-74-67—213
Steve Marino	71-73-69—213
Bill Haas	72-70-71—213
Tom Watson	67-74-73—214
Trevor Immelman	69-73-72—214
Geoff Ogilvy	74-72-69—215
Heath Slocum	72-73-70—215
David Toms	69-75-71—215
Nick Watney	68-76-71—215
Sean O’Hair	72-71-72—215
Kenny Perry	72-71-72—215
Angel Cabrera	73-74-69—216
Steve Flesch	75-71-70—216
Adam Scott	69-75-72—216
Soren Kjeldsen	70-71-75—216
Camilo Villegas	74-72-71—217
Charl Schwartzel	69-76-72—217
Matt Kuchar	70-73-74—217
Lucas Glover	76-71-71—218
Ryan Moore	72-73-73—218
Yuta Ikeda	70-77-72—219
Miguel Angel Jimenez	72-75-72—219
Scott Verplank	73-73-73—219

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY’S STANDINGS

World Resort	9	2
MBI	8	2
Aqua Resort	8	2
Mobil	8	3
TBK	7	3
Pacific Islands Club	6	4
Fiesta Resort	6	4
Bank of Guam	4	4
AON/NJ Plus	4	5
McGraw-Hill	4	5
Shirley’s	4	6
Pepsi	3	5
Docomo/SGH	1	8
Hard Rock	0	8
Cell Pro	0	11

The Week in Sports

Clash of the titans

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The biggest names in local tennis dominated the week, as some sports events took a break and were a bit slow in returning to action.

Former NCAA standout Kirk Schuler and Junior ITF world No. 645 Ji Hoon Heo capped the two-weekend 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on the Pacific Islands Club hard court with their epic clash in the men's open singles finals.

The Schuler-Heo championship showdown lasted for more than three hours with the latter escaping with a 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-3 win.

Two more familiar names in local tennis joined the men's open singles with Peter Loyola bowing to Heo in the semis 6-0, 6-1, and CNMI coach Jeff Race losing to Schuler, 6-4, 6-7 (8-6), 6-1.

In other singles divisions, junior

netter Thea Minor, Mikayla Lopez, Jake Lee, and Christian Miller lived up to expectations ruling their respective categories.

After his title conquest in the PIC tournament, Heo left Saipan for Brisbane, Australia to compete in two Junior ITF events and aim for more ranking points. Heo earned a slot to the main draw of the two tournaments after his impressive games in New Zealand early this year.

Also getting an entry to high-level competitions was CNMI junior golfer

R.J. Macaranas, who will be representing the CNMI to two world championship golf tournaments in July.

Back in local events, the various leagues on Saipan resumed action after missing a couple of playing days due to the observance of Lenten season.

The Shirley's caging was back to its five-times-a-week schedule with the league-leading and defending champion Micronesians Brokers Inc./Dial Full Force, Aqua Resort Club and World Resort in a tight race in the Top 3. Also winning last week were

TBK Auto Shop and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Still in basketball, the 2010 MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League kicked off last week with Ebisuya crushing Island Apparel/Below the Rim, 84-52, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the Chamolinian softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield, the Top 5 placers in the team standings in the 21-squad field were still at it with Natibu unbeaten in 14 games and Man Amigos holding a 15-1 mark. Island Rebels are in third with a 13-2 slate, followed by

SaiPal (11-3), and San Roque (11-4).

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Fielders edged the Falcons, 8-7, in the Big League division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, while the Rangers topped the D-9ers, 16-7, to remain unbeaten in six games in the 2010 Saipan Major League Baseball.

Baseball action in the CNMI will continue this week after SML announced the return of former San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners scout Ray Brown to Saipan. The Baseball Confederation of Oceania development officer will be conducting clinics for SLLB and SML players, coaches, and umpires.

In basketball, BANMI will also have a visitor in New Zealand coach Kevin Smith, who will be sharing his expertise with coaches, administrators, and players.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo returns to Kirk Schuler during their men's open singles title match in the 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on the Pacific Islands Club hard court early this month.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kirk Schuler serves to Ji Hoon Heo during their men's open singles title match in the 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on the Pacific Islands Club hard court early this month.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ebisuya's Amor Casabuena, right, goes for a layup against Island Apparel's Derron Flores during the opening game in the MBFNMI masters caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta's Rommel Usi, tries to save the ball from going out of the baseline while McGraw-Hill's Patrick Guerrero looks on during their game in the Shirley's caging.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Fielders' Anthony Tenorio is at the plate getting ready to bat against the Falcons during their game in the Big League division of the SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kevin Smith, seen here at the bench of New Zealand observing the Kiwis' game against Guam during last year's FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, will arrive on Saipan today to share his expertise with BANMI.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

World Resort's Wowie Abuel, left, goes for a layup against AON's Emir Abuan during their game in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center.



The roars
start a day
early at
Augusta
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Staal in record win in SSC Ocean Swim



The third wave of participants in yesterday's 32nd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim sprint to the waters off Saipan World Resort.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kai Staal survived the strong current and wind yesterday in the waters off Saipan World Resort for a

record finish in the 32nd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim.

Staal timed in at 32 minutes and 57 seconds in the longest race of the day—the 2.5 kilometer swim—around the partially submerged World War II tanks.

The Tsunami Saipan swimmer's time was better than the 2009 winning mark of teammate Rezne Wong. Wong competed in his last SSC ocean swim before moving to Hawaii last year, posting 33:42.



Rough waters and strong winds greeted Staal and 43 other swimmers in yesterday morning's race, pushing them toward the left side while starting the course and heading to the right side of the

ocean. Staal and other swimmers in the 2.5K race negotiated the course twice.

The 16-year-old Staal finished ahead of teammates Kensuke Kimura (33:11), Shin Kimura (33:30) and Kaisei Toda (39:45).

See STAAL on Page 26

Survivors edge Red Sox in seven innings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Survivors out-classed Red Sox in the low-scoring game, 3-2, in the Junior League division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Starting shortstop Jose Lizama made the game-winning hit, connecting on a single that drove Vicente Cabrera Jr. home at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Cabrera led off for Survivors at the bottom of the last inning with the game tied, 2-all, and advanced to first on Red

Sox's error at left field. He stole bases and was at third base when Lizama stepped up to the plate and made the crucial hit.

Survivors notched their fourth win in seven games, tying their victim for third place in the team standings. The defending champion Patriots lead the league with an unbeaten 7-0 record (pending yesterday's game results), fol-

See SURVIVORS on Page 26



Survivors' Jeffrey Lizama delivers a pitch against the Red Sox during the bottom of the fourth inning of their Junior League game on Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Iguel, Jones top Big League leaderboard

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces' Juan Iguel and D-9ers' Dave Jones are on top of the leaderboard in the batting and pitching races, respectively, in the Big League division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Iguel is ahead of 16 other sluggers in the batting race with his average of .522, built on a 12-for-21 performance at bat. He also leads the league in runs

with 11 and second in doubles and RBIs with four and five, respectively.

In second place is the Fielders' Ben Flores, who had a batting average of .476 after going 10-for-21. Completing the Top 5 are all D-9ers sluggers—Eric Tenorio (.400), Chad Atalig (.389), and Wally Emul Jr. (.368).

Emul is the leader in doubles and RBIs, too with his five and six, respectively, while Atalig joined five

See IGUEL on Page 26

Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo breaks into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Friday night games in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League

at the JP Center Basketball Court belonged to underdogs Saipan Grand Hotel /Docomo and Mobil Oil.

SGH/Docomo played in the first game and set the theme of the night with a 104-87 upset against AON/NJ Plus. It was SGH/Docomo's first win in nine games, while the loss was AON's fifth after nine matches.

After a deadlock at the end of the first quarter, 21-all, SGH/Docomo started pulling away in the second period to end its nine-game losing skid.

James Villacrusis led SGH/Docomo's first win, firing 21 points, while John Sablan and Gerald Maliwanag chipped in 20 apiece. James Lee and Marlon Sison also finished in double figures with 19 and 10 markers, respectively.

In the second game, Mobil pulled off a similar upset win over defending

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo's Marlon Sison, right, attacks the defense of AON/NJ Plus' John Capuyon during their game in the Shirley's caging on Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

